



# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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**Cover:** Wood Stork at Hampton, Baltimore County. Photo by David Walbeck.



## **OVENBIRD (*SEIURUS AUROCAPILLUS*) STAYS AT FEEDER THROUGH JANUARY 1**

**BOB WOOD**

On November 17, 1988, I observed an Ovenbird foraging under the bird feeder only 10 feet from the kitchen window of my house in Kingsville, Baltimore County, Maryland. Over the next 45 days the bird was seen frequently at dawn and dusk, and occasionally during the day.

The bird typically arrived as early as 24 minutes before sunrise, sometimes preceding the White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) and Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) that were attracted to the fragments of sunflower seed that fell to the ground beneath the feeder. In the dim light of early morning, the Ovenbird would suddenly materialize, its distinctive gait making it easily distinguishable from the other birds, which were largely hoppers and scratchers. It would feed for 10 to 30 minutes before flying to nearby shrubbery or an adjacent woodland. It would reappear near sunset and continue feeding until it was too dark to observe the bird.

The feeding tray was on top of a 6 foot tall pipe, and the Ovenbird regularly foraged on the bare ground within 10 feet of the feeder. The feeding tray was stocked solely with black oil sunflower seed. The Ovenbird occasionally investigated a strip of bare ground alongside the foundation of the house, and sometimes probed an accumulation of dried leaves, moving them with lateral flips of his head. It was never observed near a similar feeder on the other side of the house.

The Ovenbird walked only when moving short distances between two points, such as when it walked to the feeder, or when it crossed the concrete walkway. When foraging on bare ground it moved with a shuffling gait that sometimes appeared to be more hop than walk.

December was mild, and the average daily temperature was 27° F. There was little snowfall. The Ovenbird was apparently not affected by a dusting of snow on December 9, feeding normally with other birds and squirrels while the snow melted. On January 2, two inches of snow fell. The bird was seen foraging on the snow at 1:55 p.m. that day, but although I cleared a large bare area that afternoon, it was not seen again.

This note originally appeared in the newsletter of the Baltimore Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society.

*3921 Miller Road, Kingsville, Maryland 21087*

## FIRST WOOD STORK IN BALTIMORE IN 33 YEARS

JOY WHEELER

On July 13, 1989 Peg Knight of Hampton, Baltimore County, reported a large "off-white" bird with a long yellow bill feeding in a small stream and on the lawn of a house at the corner of Hampton Lane and Culvert Lane. Hampton is near Towson in Baltimore County, just north of Baltimore City. The description seemed to suggest a Great Egret (*Egretta alba*), but I could not find the bird during a brief search a few hours later.

The next day I was driving on Westellen Road, close to the site of the original report, when I saw a large white bird standing on a well-trimmed and expansive lawn well back from the road. Although I did not have binoculars with me I could see it was not a Great Egret. It was preening its breast feathers with a long, stout, yellow bill. I did not have binoculars with me, and not wanting to get close enough to flush the bird, I was unable to make a positive identification. On the way home to get my binoculars I could not think of any bird that fit what I had seen, and I was thinking about calling the zoo to ask if there had been any escapes recently. First, I wanted to get a better look, and in ten minutes I was back with my binoculars.

Able to scrutinize the bird closely, I could see that it matched perfectly the picture of an immature Wood Stork in my field guide. I could easily see the line of black along the edge of the folded wing, and the height, between 3.5 and 4 feet was also right. I had seen my first Wood Storks in April, on a trip to Florida, but they were all adults, with black heads, legs, and bills. This was my first look at an immature, which explains why the identification was not immediately obvious to me. With all thought of calling the zoo gone, I phoned as many Maryland Ornithological Society members as possible.

After making the calls I returned to the area, only to find the bird was gone. I searched the neighborhood without success, and eventually ran into two other MOS members, Robert Ringler and Deborah Terry. After a half-hour of searching we found ourselves at the intersection of Dulaney Valley Road and Seminary Avenue, about a half-mile from where the bird was originally seen. While standing there we spotted the Wood Stork flying over us, apparently having just risen from the bed of a small stream that runs through the property of a nearby church. We watched it soar higher and higher and sail off to the north. We were able to see clearly the long legs trailing beyond the black tail, the black primaries and secondaries, the all-white body, the long, decurved yellow bill, and the long neck, held fully extended. It was now 1:00 p.m., and as the bird became a tiny speck in the blue sky and disappeared to the north we had no reason to believe we would ever see it again.

Had we read the section on Wood Stork in John Terres' (1980) *Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds* we might have been more optimistic. He notes that the Wood Stork "...sometimes mounts to a tremendous height, and suddenly dashes downward." Three people well to the east of us reported seeing the Wood Stork flying over their homes about 3:00 p.m. The same afternoon John Ridgely saw it around his swimming pool in Hampton. At 5:00 p.m. Peggy Bohannon and I found it in the

stream along Culvert Road where it had been seen the previous day. By 7:00 p.m. many observers had gathered, attracting the attention of local residents, many of whom had noticed the bird and were eager to contribute information. The most significant news came from George Huber, an MOS member, who reported seeing the bird for the first time on July 11, but who had not had the opportunity to confirm the identification.

Saturday morning, July 15, stands as testimony to the power of rare bird alerts. A great many birdwatchers flocked to Hampton, adding Wood Stork to their life, state, and county lists. The observers kept their distance, but the young Wood Stork did not seem to be bothered by all the attention, even when the ranks were swelled by participants in a local yard sale who drifted over to see what was attracting so many people. The bird was photographed innumerable times, and a videotape was made of its activities.



**Fig. 1. Wood Stork  
at Hampton, Baltimore  
County.**

For the next two weeks the stork was reasonably easy to observe, spending most of its time along a five-block stretch of Culvert Road. It fed along a small stream that runs close to the road, and in the broad lawn of a nearby house. The last report was by Gene Scarpulla, who saw the bird on the evening of July 23.

The proximity of Culvert Road to my own home made extensive observation of the bird possible. It spent much of the time feeding actively in the small stream and on adjacent lawns. In the stream it would stand on one leg and stir the water with the other. It frequently probed under the grassy bank of the stream as well as in the stream bottom. When probing it held its bill open, pushing it deep into the silty bottom or under rocks and partly submerging its head. This caused the water to flatten the feathers of the forehead, making the bird appear bald. It was also seen foraging on lawns, probing the surface and harvesting what appeared to be large insects the size and shape of the emerging annual cicada (*Cicadidae* sp). Terres (1980) lists the food of the Wood Stork as "fishes, frogs, tadpoles, snakes, young alligators...aquatic animals, including insects."

There were many reports of the bird roosting at various times in a sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*) at the edge of the stream. On the night of July 15 heavy rains caused local flooding and deposited silt and gravel over the stream banks. The following morning the bird was seen on the nearby lawns, just beyond the edge of the



rising water, probing in the newly deposited silt. On Thursday, July 20, there was more severe flooding, scouring the streambed of silt and gravel, and presumably, plants and animals. The flooding apparently did not unduly disturb the Wood Stork, and the next time I checked, July 22, it was sitting in the stream preening its fluffed up breast feathers. It seemed to lack the energy it previously showed, and another observer reported the same impression the next day. The last sighting was at 6:00 p.m. on July 23, by Gene Scarpulla, who said the bird appeared alert and in good condition. On July 30 I made an active search for the stork, walking the entire length of the stream. Just north of Seminary Avenue I briefly saw a large white bird flying away, but the head and legs were hidden behind the trees. In the stream bed near where it had flown from I found the footprints of a large bird in the sand. I measured them at 7.5 inches from front to tip of hind toe. This evidence is not conclusive, but suggests that was the last day the Wood Stork was seen in the area.

During its stay I made the following observations of its appearance. The Wood Stork was 3.5 to 4 feet tall. The long legs were pink fading to gray where they met the body feathering. The long-toed feet were pink, the toes webless and clawed. The body feathers were not as pure white as on an adult, but more yellowish-white. The feathers on the upper neck and head were thin and tannish-gray. When the wings were folded the blackish primaries made a distinct line down either side of the body. The bill was stout and at its circular base was nearly the width of the skull. The nostrils were high on the ridge of the bill. There was a long black streak extending down the bill from the eyes, which were dark, giving the bird a sad, teary-eyed appearance at times. The long yellow bill had a shallow but obvious downcurve toward the tip. The wings were black-edged, evident when the bird extended its wings prior to flight or landing. No one reported hearing it vocalize.

That same summer there were other Wood Stork reports from Maryland. Mrs. Nancy Mullen found an immature in Reisterstown on August 5, also seen by Jean and Elmer Worthley. There was an unconfirmed report of a bird fitting the description of a young Wood Stork in the Western Run area of Cockeysville on August 27. Two were also reported near Bertha in Calvert County on July 10, one of which stayed through August 9 (Ringler 1989, 1990).

Prior to this occurrence, the last Wood Stork record for Maryland was on June 17, 1956 at Gibson Island (Stewart and Robbins 1958).

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531 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21204

# FIRST RECORD OF GULL-BILLED TERN (*Sterna nilotica*) FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

HANK KAESTNER

On June 9, 1991 Bob Dixon and I were birding the Hart-Miller dredge spoil impoundment on the east side of Baltimore County. At about 8:15 a.m. we were on the dike that separates the north and south cells of the impoundment. We stopped about 150 yards away from a sandy island in the southeast corner of the north impoundment because it gave us the best lighting conditions.

The island harbored dozens of nesting Common Terns (*S. hirundo*), and while I was looking through the birds on the higher portion, Bob began checking the ones standing near the water's edge. After only a few moments he called my attention to a large tern with an entirely black bill. While adjusting my telescope so that I could see where Bob was looking I thought back to June 8, 1986, when I had seen Baltimore's first and only Sandwich Tern (*S. sandwichensis*) at Hart-Miller. However, as soon as I got the bird in the telescope I knew this was not another Sandwich Tern. The bill was thick, had no yellow tip, and the crest was not shaggy. I immediately yelled "Gull-billed Tern!" and Bob and I began congratulating each other.

As soon as we began taking notes it became obvious that there were three Gull-billed Terns present: two together on the water's edge, and one standing about a foot away. All three were in identical plumage. I took the following notes at the time:

"At least 1/3 larger than the nearby (less than a foot away) Common Terns. Dark black cap; uncrested, but demarcation line between cap and pure white cheeks curves gently. Bill completely black; thick, gull-like; length about half width of head. Mantle and wings ashy-gray. Rest of plumage stark white. Legs and feet black; legs long looking, about twice the length of the legs of the Common Terns."

At that point one of the birds took flight, and we watched it in order to observe the wing pattern. The bird flew directly toward us until it was about 50 yards away, and then turned south. We noticed that the other two birds were following. All three birds flew over the outer dike and out of sight. We made the following observations of the flying birds:

"Very white in flight. Shallowly forked white tail. Top of the wing showing a very distinct, very black tipping to the outer primaries. The underwing showed a medium gray tipping to the primaries and a thin gray line along the front edge of the wing."

At this point Bob and I felt we had adequate documentation, although we were aware that some details on the sitting bird, especially the relation between wing and tail length, had not been noted. Three hours later, while we were on the west side of the north impoundment, we stopped to scan a sandbar with a large number of gulls and terns on it. The distance was about 200 yards, and the light was not good, but we were able to pick out Forster's (*S. forsteri*) and Caspian (*S. caspia*) terns, and many gulls, including a first summer Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). There have been a few summer

reports of Little Gulls at Hart–Miller, but this was the first I had seen in five years, when the Sandwich Tern was present!

Eventually I picked out another Gull-billed Tern from the flock, and we soon realized that there were three others standing a short distance from the first. They were near Forster's Terns, and the larger size, thick black bill and black legs were diagnostic. Although the viewing conditions were fairly poor we were able to note that the folded wings extended several inches beyond the tail.

Soon all four birds took flight, passing over our heads and out of the impoundment. These were the last Gull-billed Terns we saw that day, and confirmed that there were *at least* four different individuals present that day.

Gull-billed Terns are rare in the upper Chesapeake Bay, with a scattering of records as far north as Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County.

The weather that day was hot and humid, with light southerly winds. The early observations were made under good conditions, but later in the day the heat waves made observation more difficult. Both observers have previous experience with Gull-billed Terns, and I had seen them only a few months earlier in the Indramayo marshes of central Java.

*322 Presway Rd., Timonium, Maryland 21093*

## SPOTTED SANDPIPER NEST IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

ROBERT DIXON

On June 9, 1991, Hank Kaestner and I conducted a bird survey at Hart–Miller Island dredge spoil impoundment. The impoundment is in Chesapeake Bay just east of the end of Miller's Island Road. The impoundment is approximately rectangular, two miles long by one mile wide, and is contained by a large gravel and sand dike, approximately 20 ft. high. The top of the dike is 6 to 10 ft. wide and flat.

While walking on top of the dike near the northeast corner of the impoundment we flushed a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). The sandpiper was calling loudly as it flew, and after several minutes of searching Kaestner found the nest, which contained three eggs. The nest was at the base of a two-foot-tall shrub. The plant obscured and protected the nest on three sides. Other than the shrub there was little vegetation on this part of the dike. The vegetation was primarily short grasses and was scattered, with bare areas of dirt prominent. Although Spotted Sandpipers are probably rare but regular breeding birds in Baltimore County, and although they were confirmed in the county during the Atlas project, this is the first record of a nest for Baltimore County. The Atlas confirmations resulted from the observations of downy young. Spotted Sandpipers are rare breeders in Maryland according to the Breeding Bird Atlas results.

*Benson Mill Road, Sparks, Maryland 21152*



## REPORT OF THE STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT, MAY 11, 1991

JIM STASZ

Every year, while droning through the process of entering the individual county reports onto the computer, I search for a theme, a way to characterize the overall effect. The 44th Annual May Count (Table 1) was no exception. The counts of 171,466 individuals and 244 species were below expectation. Although 458 observers in 240 parties walked 738 miles in 1136 hours, drove 5967 miles in 571 hours, boated 24 miles in 19 hours, and watched the feeders for 130 hours, and even though the weather was fair, there were no sightings of notable birds or unusual numbers. You, like I, might be reminded of the remarkable event at night on the moors in A. Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes mystery The Hound of the Baskerville's: *the dog did not bark*.

Since its inception, the May Count has evolved from a purely fun event into an ornithological adventure. The creator of this project knew that some significant knowledge could be gained by massing the reports of amateur "bird-watchers" into a long-term set of data. "The original purpose of these annual Bird Day counts was to provide an opportunity for each and every member to enjoy a day's birding at the very height of the spring migration with the knowledge that the results of his findings, together with other members, would fit together like the pieces of a puzzle and reveal the status of bird migration throughout the State on the specified date" (Robbins 1952). Like many of you, I was born after the first "Bird Day" on May 8, 1948; my "first" was in 1976. At that time I was ignorant of the history, but no more. Since becoming Coordinator in 1981, with curiosity aroused, looking at the past has revealed wonderful things.

"Bird Day" was held on the second Saturday in May from 1948 through 1955. In 1956 the Maryland Ornithological Society was incorporated: its By-Laws required that the Annual Meeting be held on the second Saturday of May and forced the move of "Bird Day," now the Statewide Bird Count, to the first Saturday. In 1983 the By-Laws were changed to allow for the Annual Meeting on a date other than the second Saturday of May; "Bird Day" moved back to its original location in 1988. The early years were easy to compile. In 1950 Haven Kolb (Kolb 1951) had a total of about 50 observers with 33 individual party reports, including 9 from Gibson Island in Anne Arundel County; only 15,958 individuals of 193 species were reported from 12 counties. We now have almost 500 observers, more than 200 parties, and we average more than 175,000 individuals and 245 species. Haven's plea for coverage "next year" in all 23 counties was not fulfilled until 1971, but languished again until 1982; in 1983 the District of Columbia came into the fold. Figures 1-6 show the long-term increase in geographic coverage, total observers, total party-hours, total individuals, total species, and the relative abundance of total birds; the data from 1948 through 1953 are too meager, and data from 1954 through 1956 are lost; a gap has been provided in the charts to differentiate the "first Saturday" counts of 1957-1987 from the "second Saturday" counts of 1988-1991.

These "Big Pictures" have some hidden details, which are reflected in the graphs. It is all too easy to look at graphs like these and speculate on the cause of all the wiggles



Table 1(cont.).Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Pr.G.	Anne.	Calv.	Chas.	St.M.	Kent	QuAn.	Caro.	Talb.	Dorc.	Wico.	Some.	Worc.	Total	Co.'s
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
9	26	19	2	16	1	3	-	9	26	-	1	-	237	17
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	3
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
7	26	77	47	9	22	112	12	5	125	34	1	-	1037	20
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	1	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	3
17	48	54	179	55	99	104	48	34	35	8	1	7	1093	23
-	-	8	2	19	2	7	-	7	15	-	-	3	74	12
-	-	8	-	5	1	13	-	9	51	2	-	1	93	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	6	1
-	-	-	3	-	1	22	9	27	9	2	3	3	89	10
8	18	12	15	20	11	12	8	5	2	4	10	-	231	22
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	119	8
-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	15	22	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	3
-	-	1	-	2	27	29	1	33	85	-	-	-	188	9
-	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2
132	11	18	28	18	234	23	19	6	75	4	59	9	2073	24
34	17	5	32	4	14	37	32	14	42	9	-	2	614	23
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
8	2	3	-	-	4	30	1	1	10	2	18	-	98	15
21	124	103	75	44	981	208	129	225	75	36	24	24	3365	24
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	8	-	8	1	29	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-	10	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	8	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	5
-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	3
-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	3
1	5	10	5	7	68	13	69	19	7	-	-	1	391	19
20	67	74	43	43	224	94	414	198	57	144	35	34	2145	23
6	58	58	36	-	48	36	28	107	28	22	10	5	517	22
1	3	2	6	2	4	3	1	1	-	2	-	-	38	14
-	-	-	5	3	1	1	1	1	-	7	-	-	34	10
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	14	-	-	-	22	4
-	-	1	1	-	3	1	3	-	6	2	-	-	23	11
-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	5
-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	6
6	6	5	11	4	1	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	142	19
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	9	
6	4	12	5	17	11	7	20	13	7	2	2	1	256	23
3	6	1	-	-	4	4	10	2	-	-	-	-	118	17
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	4
-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	86	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	3
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	48	8
1	17	19	11	39	28	58	54	28	18	15	2	-	347	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	2	-	10	3

Table 1.Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Species	Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Carr.	D.C.	Mont.	Howa.	Balt.	Harf.	Cecl.
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Rail	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Sora	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	5
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-
American Coot	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	2	-	3	2	-	95	-	6
Killdeer	50	20	14	24	30	2	8	23	14	28	13
American Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-necked Stilt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	-	1	-	3	1	2	1	-	1	4	16
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	7	6	1	-	-	-	205	8	-
Solitary Sandpiper	-	5	2	1	4	2	6	12	14	16	5
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	26	5	7	1	14	3	27	16	31	7	3
Upland Sandpiper	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	33	2	-
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	8	13	-	10	4	26	4	3	338	6	21
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	280	-	-
Calidris sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	-
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	-	-
Common Snipe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Woodcock	7	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	6	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	15	16	1	-	1	49	12	5	99	171	210
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	10	4	-	3052	9	14
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	118	-	10
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	304	-	-
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	2	-
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Dove	79	236	54	151	337	49	129	519	277	170	48
Mourning Dove	114	103	168	226	191	37	283	549	416	131	74
Black-billed Cuckoo	4	15	7	3	-	-	2	5	-	2	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	28	18	21	4	2	28	36	11	21	8
Common Barn Owl	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Screech Owl	4	5	3	8	1	-	-	3	1	11	2
Great Horned Owl	1	-	2	5	1	-	1	5	5	14	3
Barred Owl	7	1	6	3	7	-	8	16	2	1	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Nighthawk	-	20	3	-	2	1	12	5	2	1	1
Chuck-will's-widow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Whip-poor-will	1	11	3	1	2	-	-	2	10	16	7
Chimney Swift	47	78	164	97	153	23	147	204	431	73	30
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	20	15	7	1	12	-	17	20	11	9	8
Belted Kingfisher	5	2	8	6	12	-	7	15	24	16	5
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	-	2	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	40	53	88	63	17	133	221	124	85	37
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	30	18	20	35	20	4	40	67	39	19	6

Table 1(cont'n.).Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Pr.G.	Anne.	Calv.	Chas.	St.M.	Kent	QuAn.	Caro.	Talb.	Dorc.	Wico.	Some.	Worc.	Total	Co.'s
-	-	1	-	1	5	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	10	5
-	1	11	7	1	12	2	1	20	68	-	2	-	134	14
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	13	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	2	-	13	1
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
-	-	-	-	-	91	-	9	1	12	-	-	-	116	7
3	-	3	-	1	45	-	88	101	90	-	6	-	445	13
2	6	6	10	6	24	25	60	49	10	18	3	6	451	24
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	7	2
5	10	3	3	16	9	7	23	15	45	1	6	-	172	20
1	4	-	-	2	6	-	28	3	3	-	-	-	274	12
3	2	6	10	1	5	5	2	15	6	1	-	-	123	21
-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	15	5	8	3	34	5
10	10	28	11	8	20	2	6	10	3	-	1	1	250	23
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	-	-	-	16	3
-	-	2	-	9	-	-	-	49	9	-	-	-	69	4
10	2	10	1	4	26	-	74	43	25	-	12	-	249	14
-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
-	4	21	6	13	280	20	98	19	215	-	2	6	1117	21
-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	7	3
-	-	-	-	-	9	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	33	4
-	5	-	-	1	7	-	-	2	395	-	-	-	690	6
-	-	-	-	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	2
-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	308	4
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	5	5
-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	4	2	-	-	-	35	12
9	627	337	71	522	37	836	315	805	1450	413	417	71	5951	14
-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3
-	242	142	334	219	758	172	120	59	5	11	23	-	2664	21
-	537	33	14	204	26	40	-	21	175	82	12	-	4233	15
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	43	24	1	1	4	5	-	7	8	13	4	-	251	13
-	3	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	316	4
-	-	39	1	7	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	50	5
-	-	17	-	6	-	-	-	1	30	-	-	-	64	5
-	-	39	-	22	-	1	-	2	55	32	19	-	174	9
-	-	8	-	-	1	-	1	17	30	-	-	-	71	7
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	65	1
9	61	23	2	-	52	95	126	14	1	3	8	-	2443	22
84	179	163	145	104	397	122	533	115	15	41	19	3	4212	24
2	2	-	-	-	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	52	14
12	21	5	15	10	31	15	46	48	20	12	1	1	416	24
-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	7	5
-	4	4	-	5	7	1	2	4	9	-	-	-	74	17
3	2	6	4	-	6	7	6	15	7	-	-	-	93	18
6	3	4	3	2	3	5	4	6	4	-	-	-	108	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
5	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	59	14
-	-	10	2	19	4	3	5	9	18	-	-	-	72	10
1	1	10	7	5	-	3	10	4	3	2	-	-	99	19
24	105	95	106	65	90	79	90	109	15	32	6	3	2266	24
6	7	13	13	14	13	10	22	10	3	7	-	-	238	21
5	15	6	3	6	1	5	11	5	-	2	-	-	159	20
-	1	-	6	2	-	1	-	1	6	2	-	-	33	11
24	78	59	64	38	47	40	58	79	10	17	7	-	1391	23
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
7	22	23	19	9	16	21	16	14	6	10	1	-	462	23



Table 1. Statewide Bird Count, May 11, 1991.

Species	Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Carr.	D.C.	Mont.	Howa.	Balt.	Harf.	Cecil.
Hairy Woodpecker	23	4	4	3	11	6	11	18	4	9	3
Northern Flicker	30	30	61	30	40	9	57	110	64	50	18
Pileated Woodpecker	18	23	16	12	6	4	22	19	13	8	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Wood Pewee	35	24	10	52	28	4	75	75	40	28	17
Yel.-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acadian Flycatcher	11	20	16	59	30	2	143	153	50	71	34
Alder Flycatcher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Willow Flycatcher	4	-	-	3	3	-	1	-	2	2	-
Least Flycatcher	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1
Eastern Phoebe	42	43	41	29	38	2	39	57	59	29	9
Great Crested Flycatcher	33	16	82	52	14	4	53	41	26	21	7
Eastern Kingbird	27	12	42	56	77	7	66	130	40	79	17
Horned Lark	4	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	4	3	-
Purple Martin	21	6	108	8	92	-	34	41	24	18	5
Tree Swallow	84	12	34	15	5	3	81	51	35	143	19
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4	26	42	47	38	4	21	33	62	32	14
Bank Swallow	1	-	-	2	-	-	4	1	14	23	-
Cliff Swallow	20	3	2	-	72	-	-	15	48	-	-
Barn Swallow	287	88	154	143	181	9	84	342	375	249	60
Blue Jay	281	129	232	153	206	39	78	679	530	256	58
American Crow	309	127	407	377	187	58	258	382	448	161	37
Fish Crow	-	-	11	19	19	2	17	18	33	19	21
Crow sp.	-	6	-	-	156	-	56	278	4	27	-
Common Raven	7	4	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	125	39	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carolina Chickadee	-	-	34	66	53	24	150	228	148	80	30
Tufted Titmouse	79	84	106	101	91	26	152	297	145	108	48
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	55	26	12	14	11	9	18	35	17	6	9
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Creeper	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1
Carolina Wren	5	38	64	86	89	43	98	244	156	70	32
House Wren	54	13	99	145	66	14	118	106	100	16	18
Sedge Wren	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marsh Wren	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	40	2	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	3	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	48	76	41	65	85	13	134	231	95	73	38
Eastern Bluebird	31	67	126	47	36	-	58	81	67	39	20
Veery	8	-	-	4	7	13	17	51	39	4	21
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	-
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	1	4	2	15	17	20	12	2	-
Hermit Thrush	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-
Wood Thrush	46	37	50	92	144	18	108	426	137	159	109
American Robin	369	307	614	300	463	25	241	623	605	359	162
Gray Catbird	120	72	180	206	326	34	278	539	363	108	73
Northern Mockingbird	5	41	102	87	102	17	79	233	142	69	19
Brown Thrasher	26	20	48	28	20	2	17	15	16	5	10
American Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	1	9	31	-	20	-	44	119	53	15	14
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
European Starling	163	282	641	930	958	145	463	1398	1131	798	88
White-eyed Vireo	7	6	13	25	46	-	43	178	112	95	20
Solitary Vireo	29	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	1	14	5	15	1	14	28	10	12	7
Warbling Vireo	-	2	39	19	20	1	27	18	9	13	5
Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	284	99	65	149	117	65	296	578	29	131	88
Blue-winged Warbler	2	5	9	4	12	-	2	16	6	9	1

Table 1(con't.).Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Pr.G.	Anne.	Calv.	Chas.	St.M.	Kent	QuAn.	Caro.	Talb.	Dorc.	Wico.	Some.	Worc.	Total	Co.'s
2	8	4	6	8	6	14	4	12	4	3	-	-	167	22
14	55	16	7	11	37	29	20	24	9	10	3	-	734	23
6	7	10	16	1	-	1	8	3	4	-	-	-	198	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
11	16	27	35	24	44	30	37	40	6	16	5	-	679	23
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
20	31	28	45	17	11	9	16	20	-	8	2	-	796	22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	6
-	1	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	22	8
13	12	15	31	3	12	11	28	16	-	5	-	-	534	21
8	25	23	30	14	47	43	78	64	20	43	12	-	756	23
13	37	47	22	32	67	57	73	65	15	14	4	5	1004	24
-	-	1	-	9	16	17	53	3	2	2	-	-	122	14
50	23	199	98	106	129	105	558	67	75	86	10	6	1869	23
17	18	12	38	13	140	15	43	5	80	5	13	-	881	23
-	19	20	14	1	4	6	19	11	-	-	3	-	420	20
-	42	16	12	1	46	-	-	4	1	-	2	-	169	14
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160	6
17	168	342	225	291	188	208	219	211	125	85	41	12	4104	24
46	705	391	52	124	124	82	132	86	10	31	3	1	4428	24
36	143	86	111	168	37	75	149	133	20	44	5	7	3765	24
2	22	47	2	24	26	49	36	27	23	5	8	-	430	21
-	107	32	-	46	-	43	-	17	-	6	6	-	784	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	176	4
33	95	66	76	69	152	59	104	35	7	36	3	3	1551	22
24	106	90	105	53	110	36	91	71	6	33	7	-	1969	23
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	4
3	5	-	11	1	-	4	1	1	1	4	-	-	243	20
-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	10	3
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	7
26	110	103	93	110	91	66	63	79	20	53	16	-	1755	23
-	24	2	4	1	22	22	26	5	10	23	1	-	889	22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
-	9	15	4	-	34	8	-	1	40	-	5	-	163	11
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
-	1	3	3	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	9
20	58	46	98	17	37	20	40	10	4	7	-	-	1256	22
28	22	103	77	60	94	57	175	84	21	15	14	2	1324	23
-	2	4	-	3	6	1	-	7	-	-	-	-	187	15
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	7
3	11	3	7	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	101	15
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	6
67	81	67	65	47	222	79	69	107	7	27	-	-	2164	22
96	181	113	131	114	663	366	277	264	45	89	24	21	6452	24
32	108	39	39	34	159	76	46	11	10	22	15	-	2890	23
19	98	94	64	74	181	158	133	103	16	47	15	18	1916	24
5	13	28	15	43	11	17	48	13	3	6	-	-	409	22
-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
13	18	12	13	2	31	5	4	12	-	-	-	-	416	18
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
147	390	271	205	472	391	364	923	209	30	150	20	41	10610	24
26	55	56	73	72	58	27	54	18	1	27	8	-	1020	22
-	2	-	1	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	45	9
2	6	5	9	-	3	-	8	-	1	4	-	-	145	18
-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	157	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
73	202	185	153	55	109	47	138	117	8	28	16	-	3332	23
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	69	13

Table 1.Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Species	Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Carr.	D.C.	Mont.	Hova.	Balt.	Hart.	Cecil.
Golden-winged Warbler	33	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Tennessee Warbler	1	-	5	33	-	1	5	6	4	-	-
Nashville Warbler	5	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	3	-	-
Northern Parula	22	3	4	27	28	21	79	132	101	62	15
Yellow Warbler	72	28	40	42	60	6	22	82	131	119	28
Chestnut-sided Warbler	98	3	3	-	6	1	4	27	21	1	-
Magnolia Warbler	32	1	1	-	6	4	-	18	25	2	1
Cape May Warbler	2	1	2	-	7	6	32	13	8	-	-
Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	29	2	-	5	12	14	39	77	40	4	1
Yel.-rumped (Myrtle) Warb	39	7	10	34	37	11	62	204	247	110	24
Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	40	2	1	1	4	2	7	18	24	6	-
Blackburnian Warbler	8	-	2	2	1	-	2	8	4	1	-
Yellow-throated Warbler	-	5	5	-	1	5	17	1	1	6	-
Pine Warbler	-	7	7	-	4	-	3	8	4	2	3
Prairie Warbler	1	16	13	3	13	-	12	40	36	18	4
Palm Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bay-breasted Warbler	5	1	3	4	4	1	6	25	5	3	-
Blackpoll Warbler	2	1	4	41	10	12	45	117	65	13	8
Cerulean Warbler	2	13	2	7	13	-	16	4	13	14	-
Black & White Warbler	25	6	1	5	14	9	11	72	52	18	5
American Redstart	50	33	24	23	22	24	67	145	143	46	34
Prothonotary Warbler	-	3	7	10	-	1	34	1	10	8	2
Worm-eating Warbler	3	8	2	9	10	-	-	12	5	6	2
Ovenbird	77	13	4	46	25	15	34	175	63	33	69
Northern Waterthrush	17	1	1	3	-	1	12	12	5	1	2
Louisiana Waterthrush	8	11	7	24	15	1	10	38	19	14	7
Kentucky Warbler	-	2	-	4	13	1	7	73	26	15	15
Common Yellowthroat	244	39	45	54	100	16	71	363	219	93	57
Hooded Warbler	20	16	2	6	4	1	4	55	16	-	2
Wilson's Warbler	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	3	1	2	-
Canada Warbler	6	-	4	2	1	4	4	14	14	1	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	30	15	7	7	-	21	50	10	15	4
Summer Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Scarlet Tanager	87	40	22	41	36	12	47	158	70	30	16
Northern Cardinal	86	118	246	260	275	41	334	692	469	199	80
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	63	1	3	7	3	5	7	15	22	2	-
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	6	3	-	-	3	9	3	7	1
Indigo Bunting	153	195	141	105	73	3	146	275	166	89	40
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	200	83	76	61	62	15	71	210	113	34	34
Chipping Sparrow	245	84	74	42	49	3	41	117	107	62	16
Field Sparrow	111	63	77	41	62	-	39	133	44	21	19
Vesper Sparrow	5	-	4	-	6	-	1	1	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	34	1	1	-	1	-	1	11	8	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	13	6	15	26	17	-	9	22	6	10	4
Henslow's Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	221	64	86	125	144	22	86	214	211	48	37
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	43	1	4	2	2	-	-	3	22	6	2
White-throated Sparrow	18	2	9	8	29	15	17	66	61	12	9
White-crowned Sparrow	6	-	3	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	6
Dark-eyed Junco	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4
Bobolink	203	8	24	107	64	-	372	322	91	103	-
Red-winged Blackbird	855	94	305	407	294	19	188	557	571	399	78
Eastern Meadowlark	48	26	84	50	28	-	23	26	13	21	24
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	335	168	719	791	670	18	468	799	784	511	206

Table 1(con't.).Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Pr.G.	Anne.	Calv.	Chas.	St.M.	Kent	QuAn.	Caro.	Talb.	Dorc.	Wico.	Some.	Worc.	Total	Co.'s
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	4
-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	9
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	6
19	54	94	74	26	41	14	15	35	1	-	-	-	867	21
8	20	11	10	6	97	29	15	8	8	3	6	-	851	23
-	9	12	-	1	26	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	213	14
4	8	3	-	-	12	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	119	15
-	3	3	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	14
12	27	20	2	12	24	-	3	10	1	-	-	-	334	19
19	82	41	51	51	367	31	13	67	4	3	-	-	1514	22
-	13	6	-	1	14	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	146	16
-	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	41	11
-	1	13	11	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	73	15
3	11	28	25	56	17	11	16	10	14	42	5	-	276	20
17	15	14	26	52	7	6	28	1	-	22	-	-	344	20
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
-	6	1	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	14
7	56	55	32	13	18	3	1	20	1	-	-	-	524	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	9
3	40	27	17	17	22	10	27	7	-	4	-	-	392	21
12	45	41	29	9	30	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	789	20
1	2	8	20	-	11	11	30	1	1	8	-	-	169	19
1	4	8	7	1	2	-	8	21	1	6	1	-	117	20
24	34	48	85	37	80	10	43	35	11	37	13	-	1011	23
2	3	1	1	5	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	72	17
1	1	15	10	4	4	-	11	8	-	3	-	-	211	20
4	7	25	34	16	10	2	17	15	-	4	-	-	290	19
33	76	114	92	108	208	89	75	76	45	51	12	-	2280	23
19	26	35	49	13	2	-	2	-	-	4	-	-	276	18
-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	8
-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	57	14
12	17	27	30	50	19	5	49	4	10	24	-	-	407	21
3	3	30	2	13	-	2	12	8	8	13	-	-	97	12
16	51	41	46	8	33	17	32	23	4	6	-	-	836	22
71	231	139	138	145	244	197	181	158	20	43	9	2	4378	24
-	9	2	-	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	145	17
9	13	49	10	28	39	25	70	47	9	11	3	1	346	20
38	87	119	172	110	162	73	172	120	7	14	6	-	2466	23
-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
16	38	51	64	45	72	50	74	20	10	17	2	-	1418	23
13	47	110	69	88	137	65	123	87	20	50	14	2	1665	24
10	24	38	52	46	44	64	68	36	5	12	5	-	1014	22
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	30	7
-	-	2	-	7	4	4	7	3	-	-	-	-	84	13
1	1	35	44	53	51	27	22	27	1	2	-	-	392	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	3	-	10	2
-	-	5	-	1	-	1	-	-	45	-	13	-	65	5
12	83	39	27	18	47	26	22	17	3	4	-	-	1556	22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
1	4	9	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	14
5	27	10	2	2	26	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	326	20
1	-	-	-	2	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	31	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	17	5
15	32	522	6	12	657	3	79	1	-	-	-	-	2621	18
70	447	296	303	374	2223	521	707	811	500	126	133	15	10293	24
1	7	20	34	30	51	33	40	28	15	3	11	-	616	22
-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	5
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	25	12	-	43	4
126	375	366	285	778	871	777	1284	1006	750	175	56	54	12372	24

Table 1.Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Species	Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Carr.	D.C.	Mont.	Howa.	Balt.	Harf.	Cecil
Brown-headed Cowbird	85	66	117	125	121	20	84	199	126	154	25
Orchard Oriole	1	1	10	6	19	7	20	44	36	44	12
N. (Baltimore) Oriole	68	46	165	82	58	6	58	77	102	61	32
Purple Finch	11	-	12	1	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
House Finch	73	136	288	111	120	36	267	378	378	113	24
American Goldfinch	166	92	272	189	162	40	201	350	285	115	31
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
House Sparrow	56	112	256	433	206	153	131	268	175	92	37
Total individuals:	7582	4240	7839	7929	8275	1740	8322	17361	18075	7786	3082
Total species:	143	126	138	136	127	98	136	145	176	144	127
Observers:	28	14	24	25	17	5	20	59	74	31	8
Parties:	18	8	12	12	11	3	25	27	28	9	5
Miles: foot	35.9	21.0	33.0	29.0	33.0	11.0	69.3	131.5	109.0	34.5	18.5
car	465.0	342.0	356.6	415.0	265.0	26.0	118.1	380.0	247.0	306.9	85.0
boat	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
other	19.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total miles:	523.8	363.0	389.6	444.0	304.0	37.0	189.4	511.5	356.0	341.4	103.5
Hours: foot	51.5	59.5	44.8	46.0	42.0	11.0	93.0	191.6	154.0	54.5	23.5
car	42.8	165.0	24.0	31.0	21.0	1.0	14.5	29.9	16.0	22.0	5.5
boat	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
feeder watch	11.1	4.0	4.5	7.0	5.0	0.0	3.5	1.5	16.0	10.0	6.0
other	4.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Total hours:	114.3	228.5	76.3	84.0	76.0	12.0	112.0	223.0	186.0	88.5	35.0
Hours owling:	2.6	1.0	1.5	2.0	6.0	0.0	4.0	5.3	2.3	10.0	4.0
Miles owling:	32.3	1.0	4.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	4.0	22.9	3.5	37.6	34.0
Time start:	0500	0430		0500	0001	0630		0300	0500	0130	0200
Time stop:	2130	2045		2100	2030	1200		2100	2100	2350	2030
Temperature:											
Pre-dawn	50	55	59	55			56	55	50		
Dawn		65	65			57	62	66	65		50
Noon	75	76	79	80		75	71	75	80		
Sunset	85	84	79				75	61	75		84
Night	70	75	74	75				58	70		
Wind:											
Pre-dawn	SE 4		10	W 5				SE 3	S 3	W 5	
Dawn	SE 4		10			S 5	SE 5			W 5	lt.
Noon	SE 6		10			S 5	SE 6	S 10		W 5	
Sunset	W 4		10				SE 7			W 5	lt.
Night	W 4		10	W 10				S 3		W 5	
Percent (%) Clouds:											
Pre-dawn	10	100	15	50			70	15	40		
Dawn	fog		5	15		30	45	15	40		0
Noon	0	5	15	10		50	25	15	40		
Sunset	10	5	15				18	15	40		20
Night	1	5	15	10				15	40		
Precipitation:	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none

and waggles. 1978 had not only a good migration of passerines, but there was a boost to total species from a pelagic trip that added "exotics" like Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, and Wilson's Storm-Petrel. 1981 is an embarrassment: it was my first year as statewide compiler and I accepted all reports without question [looking back, there are about 5 species that should not have been published]. Sometimes weather played



Table 1(con't.).Statewide Bird Count,May 11, 1991.

Pr.G.	Anne.	Calv.	Chas.	St.M.	Kent	QuAn.	Caro.	Talb.	Dorc.	Wico.	Some.	Worc.	Total	Co.'s
35	99	64	3	42	360	62	214	181	50	33	14	-	2279	23
13	16	55	25	23	89	17	163	71	35	33	16	-	756	23
5	18	8	5	6	34	13	48	30	1	1	-	-	924	22
-	6	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	43	8
58	150	98	33	63	125	124	64	65	1	18	8	7	2738	24
20	107	111	49	75	169	48	137	105	6	13	2	3	2748	24
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2
57	103	113	59	201	278	82	418	102	2	53	9	8	3404	24
2187	8028	7274	5409	6569	13949	7029	10635	7695	5884	2800	1367	409	171466	
112	146	156	130	142	161	130	131	152	142	100	86	40	244	
13	25	17	11	12	14	13	24	12	2	6	3	1	458	
5	9	11	6	9	5	7	12	10	1	4	2	1	240	
18.5	35.0	30.5	25.0	23.5	12.5	16.5	12.5	27.3	5.0	4.0	2.3	0.1	738.3	
43.0	228.5	308.0	365.0	185.5	337.0	305.0	455.0	360.5	135.0	155.0	73.0	10.0	5967.1	
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.0	
0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.9	
61.5	268.5	338.5	390.0	209.0	349.5	321.5	475.5	416.7	140.0	159.0	75.3	10.1	6778.3	
29.5	51.5	31.0	47.0	40.0	17.0	27.6	42.0	41.4	11.0	19.0	5.0	3.0	1136.3	
4.0	15.0	11.0	12.0	16.5	38.0	30.5	33.0	18.1	3.0	9.0	5.0	3.0	570.8	
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.0	
0.0	2.0	22.5	5.0	12.3	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	130.3	
0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.5	
33.5	71.5	64.5	64.0	68.8	55.0	58.1	99.5	63.5	14.0	28.0	10.0	6.0	1871.9	
3.5	3.0	6.5	5.0	5.0	2.5	5.2	1.5	3.9	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.7	
7.0	5.8	90.0	44.0	45.0	25.0	105.0	17.0	56.1	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	590.1	
0000	0500	0330	0400	0315	0300	0109	0400	0400	0000	0600	0700	0645		
2130	1900	2130	2100	2030	1930	2045	2000	1644	2100	1900	2100	1830		
65	55	56	61	65	55	55	60	66			60			
	70	74	66	75	75	75	74	76			70			
		70	70	80	75	70		76			75			
		55	68	70			68	74						
W 5	SE 5	SSE 5	0	SW 10	WNW 5	SE 5	SE 5	SE 5	SE 5	SW 5				
S 10	SW 10	0	0	S 5	NW 10	SE 5	SW 10	SE 10		SW 5				
W 10	SW 10	SW 10	3	S 15	SW 15	SE 15		S 10						
	SW 20	0		SSE10			0	SW 10						
	80	0	100	25		50	0	75		0				
	60	30	100	15	30	50		40		15				
	40	20	50	10		50	80	75		35				
		10	20	40	10	0	80	50		75				
		0	0	20			80	20						
none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none		

a major role: "Have you ever experienced a steady stream of water squishing through your sneakers for hours at a time? Or the wonderful sensation of cold rainwater running off your body by way of your neck, back and left leg? May 1, 1976, even in retrospect, was abominable" (Hackman 1976). Although it sometimes appears that all counties have been "covered" the loss of one can have a great effect. Worcester

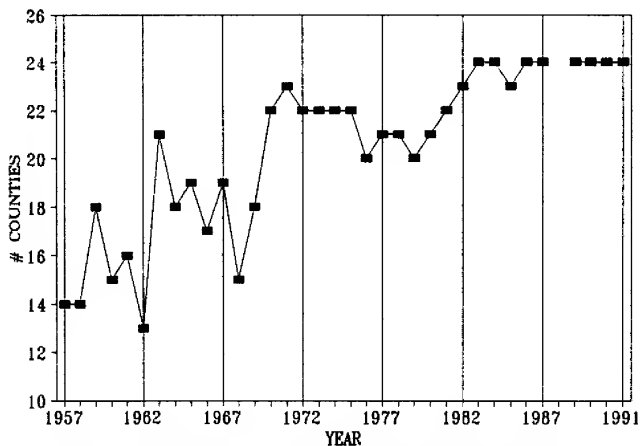


Fig. 1. Number of counties sampled each year.

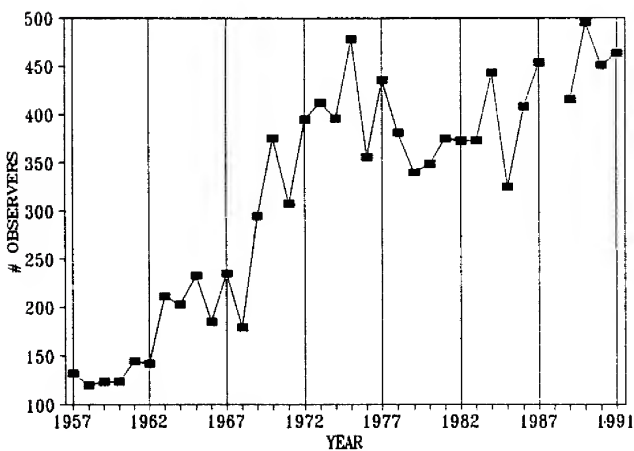


Fig. 2. Number of observers each year.

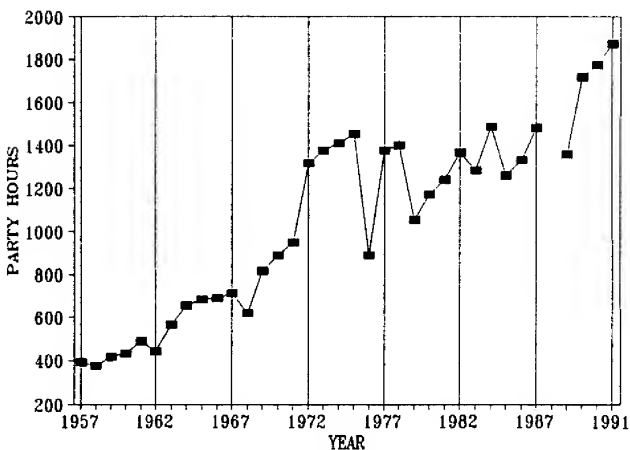


Fig. 3. Total party-hours each year.

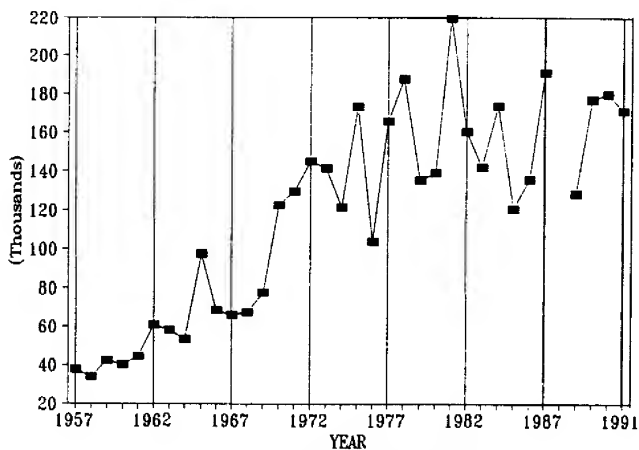


Fig. 4. Total individuals each year.

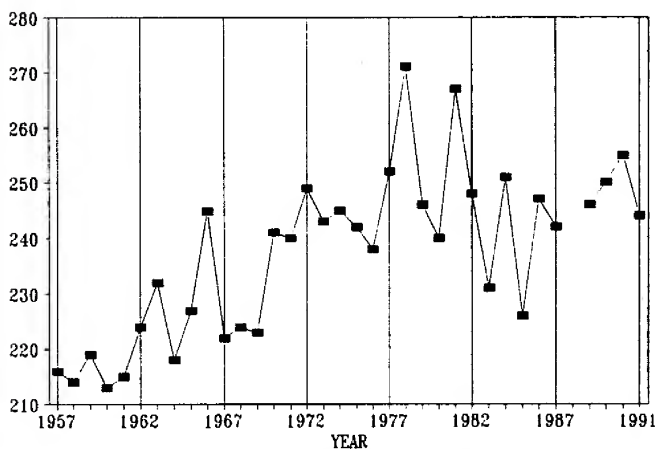


Fig. 5. Total species each year.

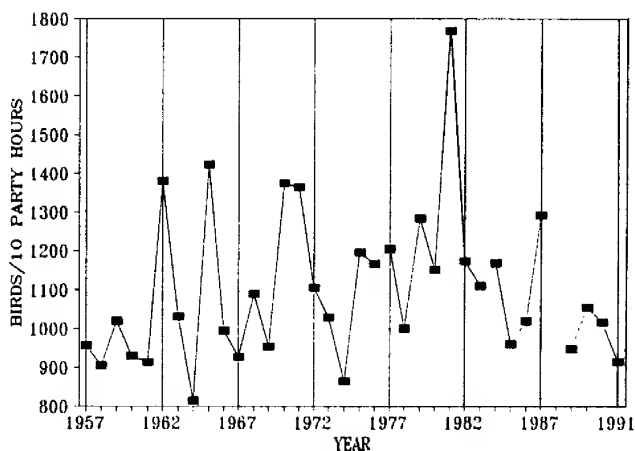


Fig. 6. Birds per 10 party-hours.

County has the only oceanic and coastal habitats in the State, habitats that have a dozen species not usually found elsewhere. In 1980, 1983, 1985, and 1991 there was only a single party covering a limited area; the drop in total species can be partially attributed to this effect. All of these variables come into play; when looking at the graphic presentations, keep in mind that there is a lot of opportunity for "noise."

One question has been raised: are the data really useful? This is not as easy to answer as one might believe. The underlying assumption, that this method actually is a measure of population, is not easily tested. A rational argument to test the "truthfulness" of the data would include comparing the results with similar studies. There is a logical trap: how do we know the "similar" study is a measure of population? Another method is to compare the trends with "common knowledge." The first example illustrates this approach.

**House Finch** (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Figure 7. The explosion of this species is well documented (Bosakowski 1986). The first Maryland record was on April 6, 1958 (Marshall 1958), the first Maryland nesting record was on June 10, 1963 (Bridge and Bridge 1964), and the first May Count report on May 7, 1966 (Kleen 1966); since then the increase has been "obvious" and is part of the "common knowledge" of the birding community. The graph illustrates a species in exponential growth during 1966-1989, with the first hints of a leveling off. While it is too early to say for certain that House Finch has reached the peak, Christmas Count data, 1959-1982 from New Jersey, seem to level off at about 17.5 birds/10 party-hours (Bosakowski 1986).

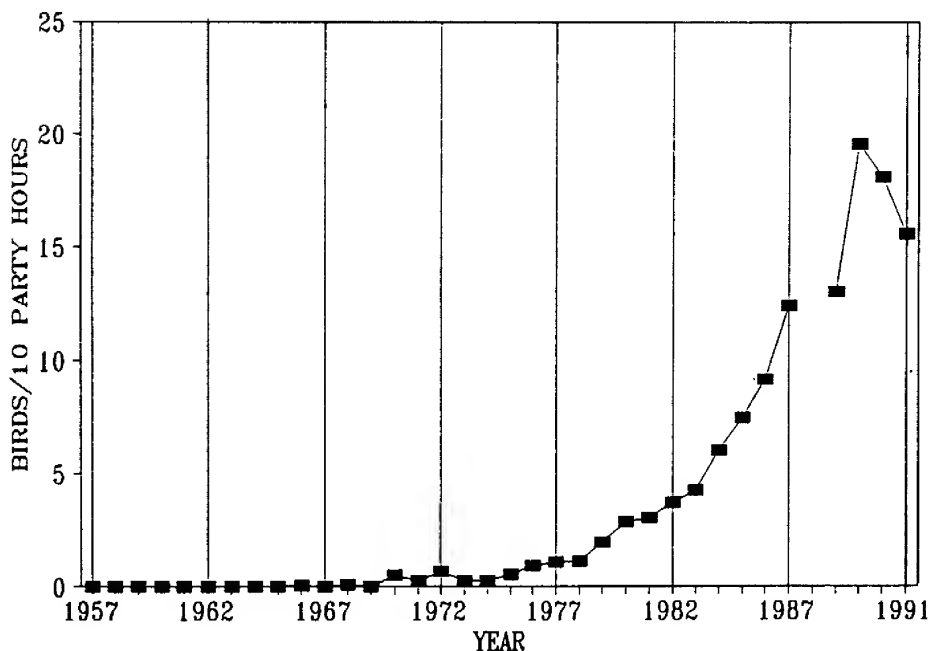


Fig. 7. House Finches per 10 party-hours.

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Figure 8. At first glance the dramatic collapse of the Eastern Bluebird between 1957 and 1958 might cause a skeptic to view these data with scorn. "By far the most disastrous period for our avian population was the middle third of February. The combination of heavy snow, persistent high winds, and low temperatures led to a dramatic struggle for survival by birds of all but the most hardy species. Unfortunately, the February storm was not just a local catastrophe, David Ludlum in the April issue of *Weatherwise* says that '...no storm of the present century combined the magnitude of the areal extent and the intensity of frozen precipitation as did the Great Snowstorm of Mid-February 1958.' It will probably take several years for the bluebirds...to recover from the effects of the weather of early 1958" (Robbins 1958). During those years my father ran a small bluebird trail in what was then the extensive orchards of the present town of Cherry Hill, New Jersey; I remember finding dead adults in communal winter roost boxes.

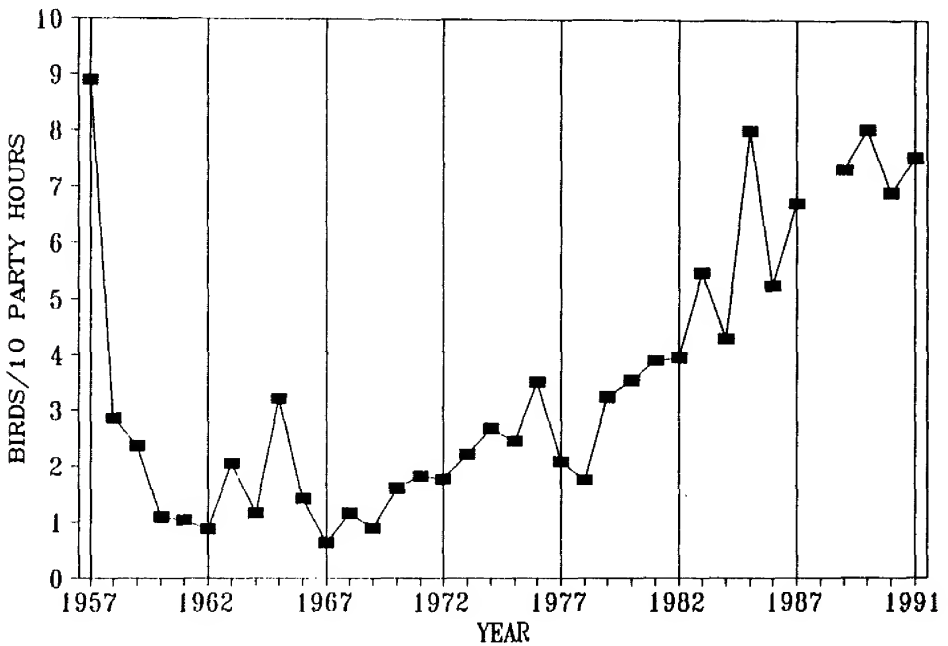


Fig. 8. Eastern Bluebirds per 10 party-hours.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Figure 9. Near the northern limit of its range, this nonmigratory member of a "tropical" family is subject to the vagaries of winter. Not as strongly affected by the February Storm of 1958 as the bluebird, the population remained large enough to show the effects of the storms of 1960 and 1961. The numbers reeled upward until 1976, only to be decimated by the winter of 1976-1977: "The historic winter of 1977 provided a dramatic change from the mild weather of the five previous years...with many songbirds failing to survive the winter at the northern fringes of their ranges" (Robbins 1977). The remaining few were hit again by the President's Day Storm of February 1978. A series of mild winters and widely



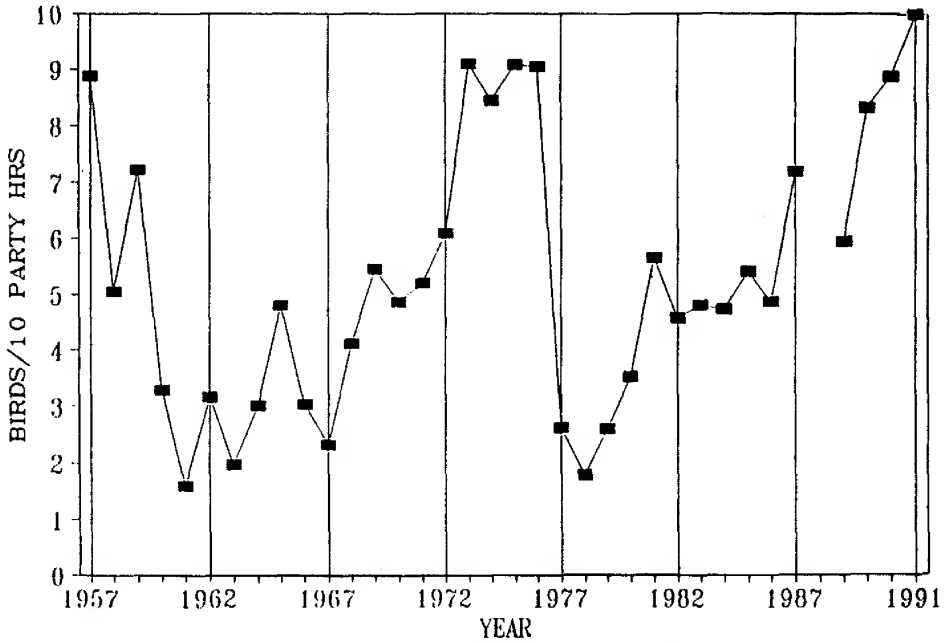


Fig. 9. Carolina Wrens per 10 party-hours.

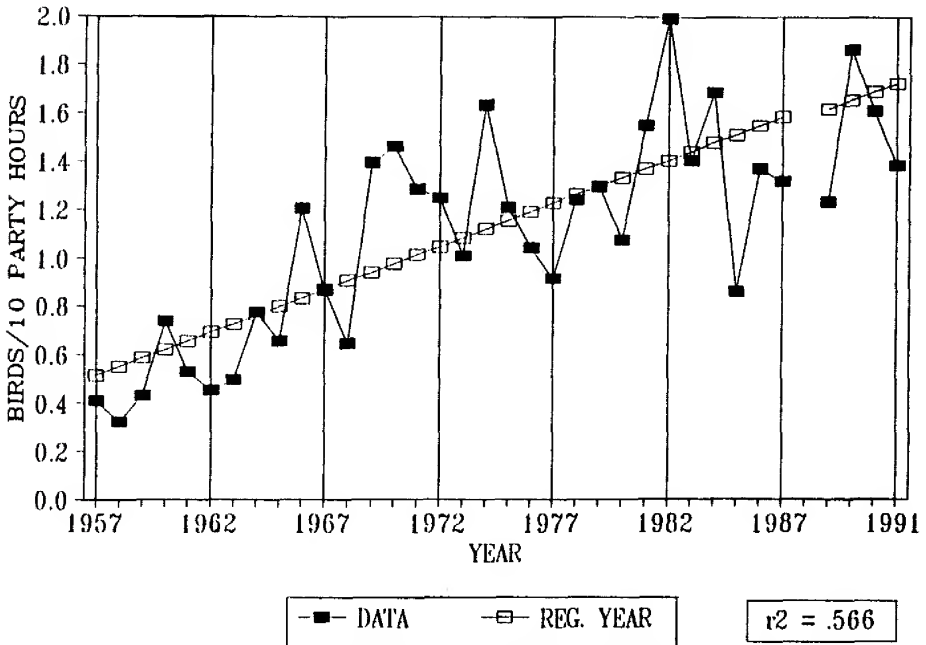


Fig. 10. White-breasted Nuthatches per 10 party-hours. A linear regression line shows the long-term trend.

scattered snowfalls has permitted an increase to all-time highs. This overall trend is consistent with general comments by birders across the State and the Breeding Bird Survey. In a way this roller coaster population is a prognosticator: a bad winter storm is due in the next few years.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta carolinensis*), Figure 10. More winter-hardy than the previous two species, the graph does not show dips that might be winter storm related. The strong increase came as an initial surprise, but compares well with the Breeding Bird Survey (Robbins *et al.* 1986). Hearsay is also useful: John Fales has noticed an increase in the past 20 years at his house in Calvert County. Mourning Dove and Red-bellied Woodpecker also showed long-term increases in both the May Count data and the Breeding Bird Survey.

**Northern Bobwhite** (*Colinus virginianus*), Figure 11. While somewhat affected by the storm of February 1958, the quail rebounded—almost certainly because of the direct action of man. The bobwhite was intensively managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a game species, with a State-run stocking program until 1970. In addition to displaying the actual May Count data, a linear regression line, computed for the years 1957 through 1987, is shown to indicate the long-term trend. Unlike Eastern Bluebird and Carolina Wren, Maryland quail survived the winter of 1976-1977. A drop between 1977 and 1978 is probably associated with the President's Weekend Storm of February 1978. The rebound to 1982 attained a level consistent with the long-term decline. This overall trend is consistent with general comments by birders across the State and the Breeding Bird Survey.

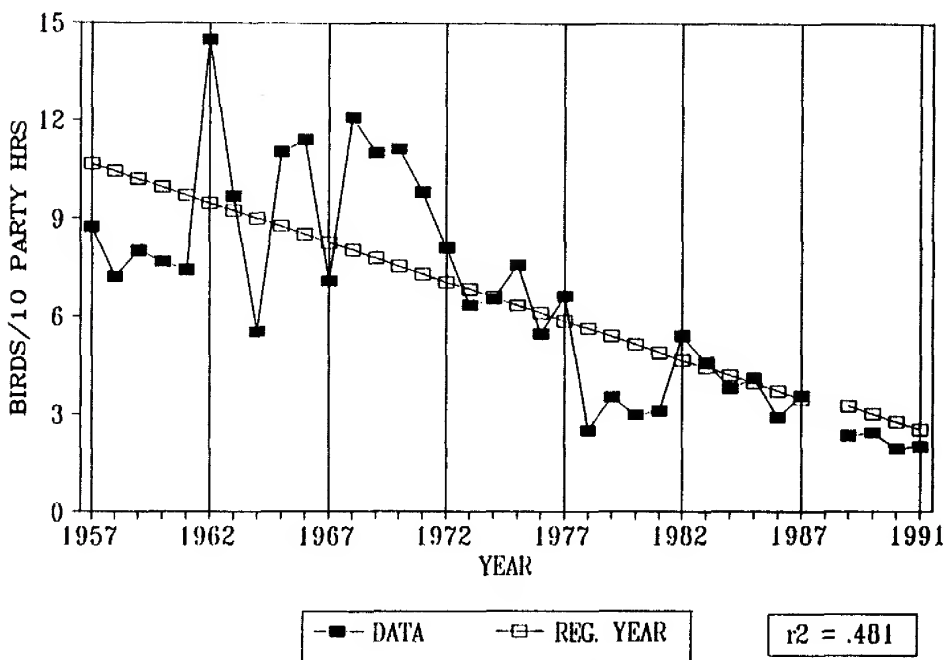


Fig. 11. Northern Bobwhites per 10 party-hours. A linear regression line shows the long-term trend.

**Brown Thrasher** (*Toxostoma rufum*), Figure 12. Quite frankly, I was shocked when I saw this graph. If these data are a fair representation of the population of the thrasher, then the species is in serious trouble. The results of the Breeding Bird Survey for the period 1965-1979 are equivocal: "Although the Brown Thrasher is common and widespread, no long-term trend was detected for any of the three regions [Eastern, Central, Western]. There were decreases, however, in the Northeastern States and in nine strata; there were no increases" (Robbins *et al.* 1986). Recently, on bird walks when a thrasher is seen, it is not uncommon to hear someone say "They are getting scarce." This is not a neotropical migrant; while its breeding range is southern Canada from Alberta to New Brunswick and through the eastern two-thirds of the United States, its principal winter range is the Gulf Coast States (Root 1988). Whatever is happening is being done by us.

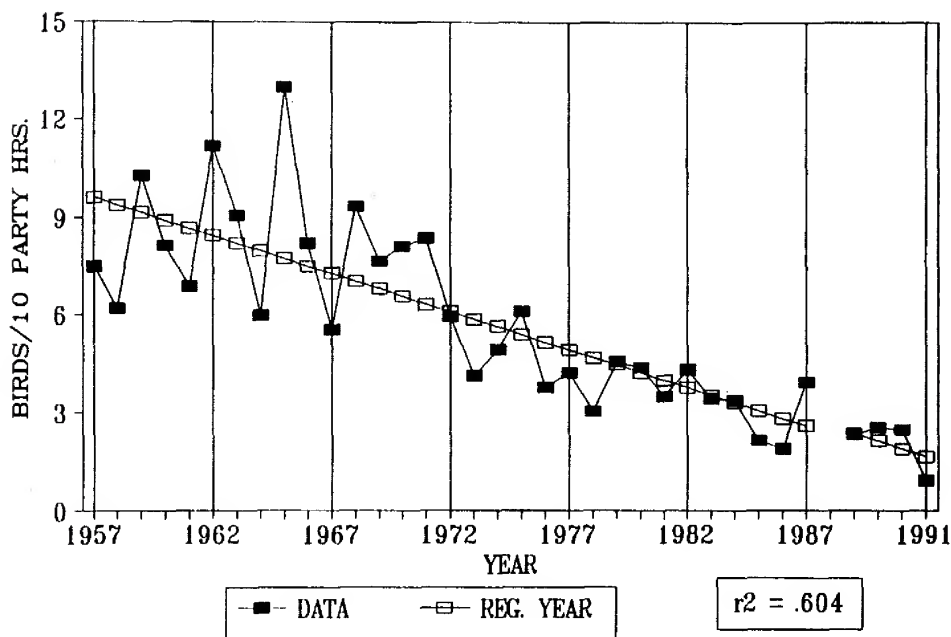


Fig. 12. Brown Thrashers per 10 party-hours. A linear regression line shows the long-term trend.

**Rufous-sided Towhee** (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Figure 13. While not as dramatic, the decline of the "Chewink" in the East has been documented by the Breeding Bird Survey. Breeding coast-to-coast, the winter range is divided into two principal areas: the "Spotted" Towhee is found along the Pacific Coast, the "Red-eyed" Towhee from Texas through the Gulf States into the Carolinas. By the way, the Breeding Bird Survey did note that the species "...exhibited opposing trends of an increase in the West and a decrease in the East, resulting in a slight but significant decrease for the Continent" (Robbins *et al.* 1986). Is there a connection with the Brown Thrasher? Note that both are ground feeders.

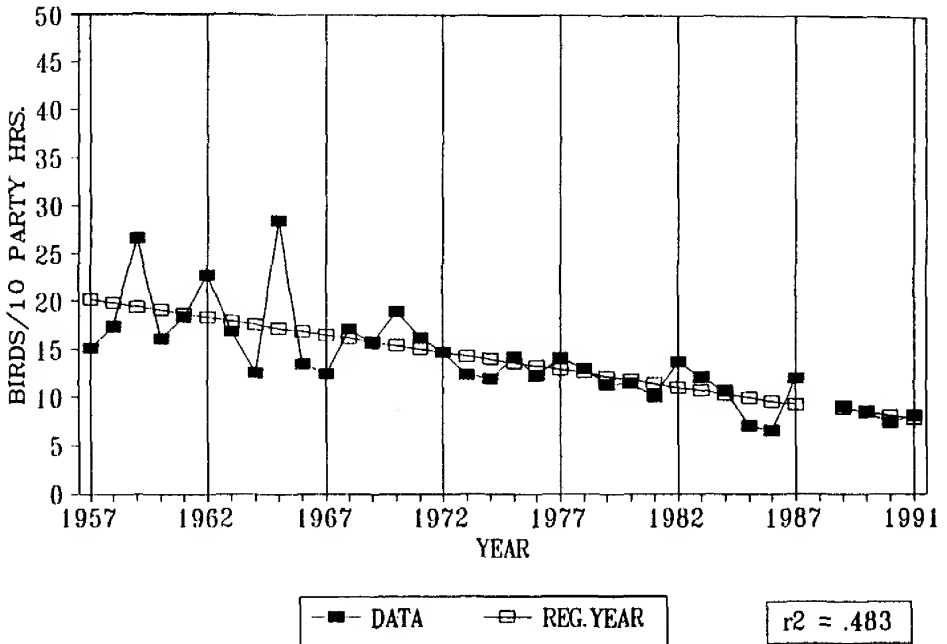


Fig. 13. Rufous-sided Towhees per 10 party-hours. A linear regression line shows the long-term trend.

**Eastern Meadowlark** (*Sturnella magna*), Figure 14. By now everyone should be aware that birds of the grasslands are declining: Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow. The presumption is loss of nesting habitat, but is that the sole significant factor? The Breeding Bird Survey noted that it "...is declining in the Eastern region, but is increasing in the Central region where the center of abundance was in East Texas Prairies, Oklahoma, and Missouri" (Robbins *et al.* 1986). The decline is not as bad as the linear regression of the data from 1957-1987 predicted: negative counts for 1990 and forever after; but this eventual result is becoming more common. Curiously, like the towhee, the wintering range is split, with centers in the plains of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and in a belt from Alabama into Georgia and the Carolinas (Root 1988). Like a Looking Glass, and not the moors, it gets curiouser and curiouser.

**Blue Jay** (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Figure 15. Not all is apparent doom and gloom. Resident throughout much of its range of southern Canada and the eastern half of the United States, northern populations make occasional mass migrations to the south and their return coincides irregularly with the May Count. The end result of this interaction is a complete inability of May Count data from Maryland to be any meaningful measure of population. This does not mean that the species is not declining. Indeed, the Breeding Bird Survey measured "...very slight but significant changes in the Eastern region (decrease) and in the Central region (increase)" (Robbins *et al.* 1986). Do you wonder, if the May Count were conducted over a larger geographic area, could a species like this be measured in a meaningful way?

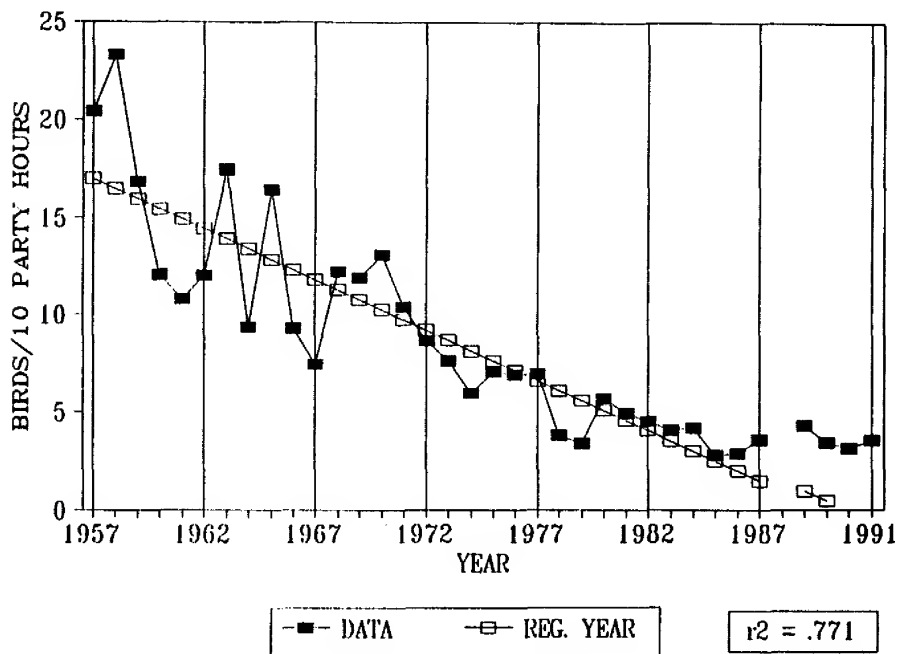


Fig. 14. Eastern Meadowlarks per 100 party-hours. A curvilinear regression line would have shown the trend better than the linear regression line pictured here.

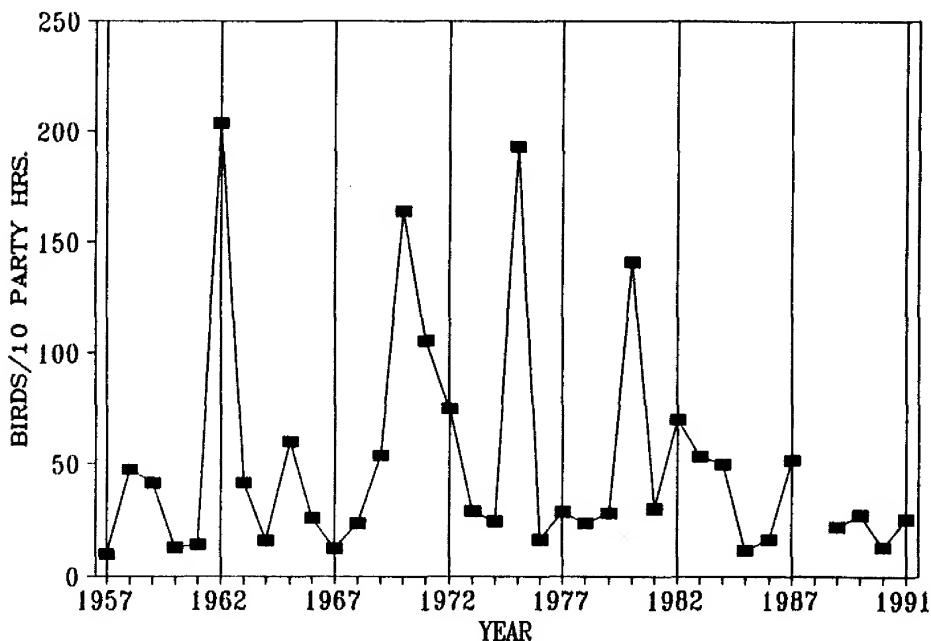


Fig. 15. Blue Jay tallies are greatly influenced by the amount of active migration on the day of the count.



It is not possible to show the graphs for more than a handful of species in an article like this. I have selected species that are representative of some of the major patterns. Future articles will continue this series.

Traditionally I close by acknowledging this year's participants, but now I ask you to join me in thanking all the participants of all the "Bird Days." While many are no longer in our ranks, the time and effort spent "enjoying a day's birding at the height of spring migration" has reaped rich rewards. The gross concept was not entirely new, Audubon Christmas Counts had been around for many years, but the originality of applying this method to spring migration created unforeseen value. The M.O.S. can be proud of the guidance of its founders: the "Bird Day" is the longest continuous set of spring migration data of its type and can serve as a model for the entire country.

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## EARED GREBE IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

MARSHALL ILIFF

On March 27, 1990, I found a Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) on Crab Creek, on the north side of the South River in Anne Arundel County. The bird was on a small lagoon about one-half mile east of the South River Bridge, directly across from the

Londontown Publik House. The bird was first seen about 5:30 p.m., and watched for about thirty minutes.

The grebe was in partial breeding plumage. The head was dark, dusky gray, with a series of golden plumes radiating back from the area of the eye and stopping at the edge of the head. The chin was white and contrasted sharply with the darker head. The neck was slightly paler gray than the head, and contrasted with the white chin. The back was light gray and the flanks were marked with light streaks. The belly was light.

The Eared Grebe was feeding close to a winter-plumaged Horned Grebe (*P. auritus*). When it was in the same scope field with the Horned Grebe it appeared smaller, plumper, shorter necked, and rounder headed. In comparison, the Horned Grebe appeared almost block-headed, with a sharp angle to the back of the head. The head of the Eared Grebe was fairly rounded, with a small peak at the center of the crown. The peak seemed to be the result of head structure rather than feather placement. The Eared Grebe showed less white on the head, and showed a more muted color on the flanks, which were white smudged with gray. It gave the impression of being slightly smaller than the Horned Grebe, and floated higher on the water. The neck was about one-third of the body length and was typically held close to the body except when the bird was feeding. When the neck was extended it was proportionately shorter than the neck of the Horned Grebe.

The bill was all black, short, and pointed. It was fairly even throughout except at the tip, where the upper mandible narrowed to a point and the lower mandible beveled upward.

I eliminated Red-necked Grebe (*P. grisegena*) by the small size, short black bill, ear plumes, and rounder head. I eliminated Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) by the thinner black bill, gray and black plumage, and the ear plumes. I eliminated Horned Grebe by the smaller size, darker and rounder head, ear plumes, slightly uptilted bill, and reduced contrast between the back and sides.

During the observation the bird was very active. It swam steadily and picked actively at the water. It dove occasionally, staying under water for several minutes at a time. Between each dive it remained on the surface about three minutes. Twice it was seen shaking water from its feathers. I watched the Eared Grebe from about 50 yards for about 20 minutes, before it swam out into the river to join a number of Horned Grebes about 300 yards away. The sun was at 90 degrees to the bird, and the lighting was excellent. The observations were made with a 20X Bushnell telescope. The only other Eared Grebe I have seen was the one that remained near Sandy Point State Park from August through December in 1989.

Other birds present at the time included two Common Loons (*Gavia immer*), 50 Horned Grebes, five Pied-billed Grebes, numerous Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), seven Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), five Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), two Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) on a nest on Channel Marker 14, numerous Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*), two breeding-plumaged Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*), and 55 Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*).





## THE SEASON

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### SPRING MIGRATION MARCH 1-MAY 31, 1991

ROBERT F. RINGLER

The mild winter carried through into the spring as there were early arrivals of almost every passerine species noted in Table 1. Temperatures for the entire season were far above normal. Consequently, there were few waves of migrants reported and virtually no lingerers late in the season. Most waterfowl left early, also in response to the mild weather.

With this report I conclude my efforts to bring the news of each season. I thank everyone who contributed over the years. Without you there would be little to say about birds in Maryland. I expect you will give the same support to Dan and Linda Southworth who take over these duties with the summer season.

*Abbreviations:* DC—District of Columbia, MPEA—Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (Howard), NWR—National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS—Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), PWRC—Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's), SP—State Park, UMCF—University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard), WMA—Wildlife Management Area.

*Locations* with county in parentheses (sites not listed here can be found in the index of the state highway map): Adventure Sanctuary (Montgomery), Ape Hole Creek (Somerset), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River (Baltimore), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Blockhouse Point (Montgomery), Bray Hill (Garrett), Carderock, (Montgomery), Damsite (Kent), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Georgetown Reservoir (DC), Green Ridge (Allegany), Green Run (Worcester), Gwynn Acres Trail (Howard), Hains Point (DC), Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset), Irvine Natural Science Center (Baltimore), Jug Bay (Anne Arundel), Knapps Narrows (Talbot), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaqundi (Howard), King's Creek (Talbot), Lime Kiln Pond (Howard), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven Reservoir (Baltimore), Masonville (Baltimore City), Massey Crossing (Worcester), McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP (Carroll), Mouth of Monocacy (Frederick), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Pennyfield Lock (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Poplar Island (Talbot), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), River Ridge (Allegany), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Shorter's Wharf (Dorchester), Soldiers' Delight (Baltimore), Sugarloaf Mountain (Frederick), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Turf Valley Overlook (Howard), Turner Creek (Kent), Violet's Lock (Montgomery), Whiton Crossing (Worcester), Wild Lake (Howard).

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*Loons, Grebes.* **Red-throated Loons** peaked with 47 off Assateague on March 8 (Hoffman), while sightings on Chesapeake Bay were greater than usual beginning with 2 off Taylor's Island and 1 off Wenona on March 30 (Barry) and a late 1 at North Beach on April 22 (Stasz); the only inland sighting was of 2 flying over the Turf Valley Overlook on April 19 (Ott). Wintering **Common Loons** included 2 at Hooper Island on March 3 (H. Armistead), 11 at Assateague on March 9 (Hoffman), 2 at Point Lookout on March 16 (M. O'Brien), and 1 that remained on Loch Raven through March 24 (Barry). High counts of migrant Common Loons were 214 at North Beach on April 10 (Stasz), 7 at Big Pool on April 14 (Blom), and 186 flying over the Turf Valley Overlook on April 19 (Ott); late birds were 1 flying over Big Pool on May 19 and 1 at North Assateague on May 26 (Both Barry), and 1 at Point Lookout on May 31 (Skip Hyberg). The wintering flock **Pied-billed Grebes** at Loch Raven still had 31 birds on March 3 (Barry); 1 was lingering at Hughes Hollow on May 15 (Hilton). The best counts of **Horned Grebes** were 30 at Rock Point on March 16 (Jett), 18 at Hains Point on March 23 (Czaplak), and 75 at Scotland Beach and 50 at Point Lookout on April 7 (Blom); the latest was 1 at Ocean City on May 18 (M. O'Brien+). The only reports of **Red-necked Grebes** were 1 at Solomons Island on March 8 (Stasz) and 1 at PRNAS on April 3 (Rambo). Sightings of Eared Grebes included 1 at the most reliable place in the state for this western bird, North Beach on March 28 (Walter Kraus) and April 22 (Stasz), plus 1 inland at Lilypons on May 2 (Warfield).

*Tubenoses, Gannets, Pelicans.* Seen by MacKiernan off Ocean City on a May 17 boat trip were 1 **Cory's Shearwater**, 5 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 3 **Manx Shearwaters** (at least one in Virginia waters) and 150 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (some in Virginia). On a May 4 pelagic trip there were 1 Manx Shearwater about 21 miles east of Ocean City and 8 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (Scarpulla+). On the coast the peak for **Northern Gannets** was 565 off Assateague on March 10 (Hoffman), and the latest was 1 at Ocean City on May 21 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). Gannets once again made a strong showing in Chesapeake Bay with the earliest reports of 3 off Cove Point on March 8 (Stasz), 10 at Point Lookout on March 16 (M. O'Brien) and 1 off Hooper Island on March 16 (Davidson). Highest local counts of gannets were 15 off Fairmount and 35 at Ape Hole Creek on March 21 (M. O'Brien), 109 off North Beach on March 25 (Stasz), 12 near

**Table 1. Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1991**

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Year Medians	1991 Median	10-Year Medians	1991 Median
Common Loon	4/1	3/31	5/20	5/25
Pied-billed Grebe	3/14	3/10	5/6	4/14
Horned Grebe	3/16	3/6	5/1	4/24
Double-crested Cormorant	3/30	3/13	6/1	6/2
American Bittern	4/8	4/5	5/4	4/28
Great Blue Heron	3/20	3/17	—	—
Great Egret	4/3	4/1	—	—
Snowy Egret	4/10	3/31	—	—
Cattle Egret	4/10	4/6	—	—
Green-backed Heron	4/17	4/11	—	—
Glossy Ibis	4/14	4/5	—	—
Tundra Swan	2/26	3/2	3/31	3/29
Snow Goose	2/21	—	4/3	3/23
Canada Goose	2/23	3/1	4/16	4/11
Wood Duck	3/2	2/26	—	—
Green-winged Teal	3/12	3/6	4/27	4/28
Northern Pintail	2/23	2/12	3/29	3/30
Blue-winged Teal	3/21	3/22	5/11	5/20
Northern Shoveler	3/13	3/6	4/13	4/10
Gadwall	3/9	3/10	4/16	4/14
American Wigeon	3/7	3/3	4/18	4/17
Canvasback	2/23	3/3	4/4	3/20
Redhead	3/1	3/3	3/26	3/17
Ring-necked Duck	2/28	2/26	4/17	4/21
Greater Scaup	3/6	3/11	4/8	3/23
Lesser Scaup	3/5	3/9	4/30	4/14
Oldsquaw	3/20	3/25	4/13	4/9
Surf Scoter	3/25	—	4/29	4/14
White-winged Scoter	3/21	—	4/18	3/30
Common Goldeneye	2/22	2/18	4/5	3/31
Bufflehead	3/5	3/9	4/30	4/28
Hooded Merganser	3/3	2/26	4/13	4/23
Common Merganser	2/20	2/13	4/4	3/24
Red-breasted Merganser	3/18	3/23	5/7	5/10
Ruddy Duck	3/20	3/21	5/6	5/2
Turkey Vulture	—	2/23	—	—
Osprey - coastal plain	3/15	3/6	—	—
Osprey - upland	4/5	4/2	—	—
Northern Harrier	3/5	—	5/8	5/8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/10	3/10	5/11	5/5
Cooper's Hawk	3/11	3/14	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	4/16	4/16	—	—
Rough-legged Hawk	—	—	3/28	3/26
Merlin	4/2	4/16	5/7	5/2
Sora	4/18	4/10	—	—
Common Moorhen	4/26	4/25	—	—
American Coot	3/19	3/19	5/2	4/27
Black-bellied Plover	4/27	4/20	5/29	6/6
Semipalmated Plover	5/4	5/2	5/31	6/3



Table 1 (cont.). Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1991

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Year Medians	1991 Median	10-Year Medians	1991 Median
Killdeer	2/22	2/25	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	3/29	3/27	5/19	5/26
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/6	3/29	5/14	5/30
Solitary Sandpiper	4/19	4/18	5/20	5/18
Spotted Sandpiper	5/20	4/17	5/28	6/2
Upland Sandpiper	4/26	4/23	-	-
Sanderling	4/15	-	5/29	6/5
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/4	4/28	6/5	6/10
Least Sandpiper	4/22	4/13	5/21	5/21
White-rumped Sandpiper	5/7	5/13	6/8	6/8
Pectoral Sandpiper	3/29	3/17	5/3	5/12
Dunlin	4/14	4/10	5/31	6/3
Short-billed Dowitcher	4/21	-	5/29	6/4
Common Snipe	3/14	3/11	5/2	5/4
American Woodcock	2/28	2/23	-	-
Laughing Gull	3/31	3/30	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	3/29	3/25	5/4	4/21
Ring-billed Gull	2/11	2/8	5/24	6/7
Caspian Tern	4/12	4/9	5/31	-
Royal Tern	4/17	4/7	-	-
Common Tern	4/15	4/18	-	-
Forster's Tern	4/14	3/30	-	-
Least Tern	5/4	4/30	-	-
Black Tern	5/9	-	5/20	5/31
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/7	5/3	-	-
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/3	4/28	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	3/20	3/24
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	3/16	3/30
Common Nighthawk	5/7	5/8	-	-
Chuck-will's-widow	4/29	4/24	-	-
Whip-poor-will	4/21	4/21	-	-
Chimney Swift	5/15	4/14	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4/27	4/20	-	-
Red-headed Woodpecker	5/1	4/27	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3/27	3/27	4/28	4/15
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5/2	4/26	-	-
Acadian Flycatcher	5/2	5/3	-	-
Willow Flycatcher	5/17	5/13	-	-
Least Flycatcher	5/2	5/1	5/21	-
Eastern Phoebe	3/13	3/8	-	-
Great Crested Flycatcher	4/27	4/27	-	-
Eastern Kingbird	4/24	4/19	-	-
Purple Martin	3/30	3/26	-	-
Tree Swallow	3/22	3/21	-	-
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4/2	3/25	-	-
Bank Swallow	4/18	4/19	-	-
Cliff Swallow	4/19	4/23	-	-
Barn Swallow	4/4	3/28	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	5/2	5/5

Table 1 (cont.). Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1991

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Year Medians	1991 Median	10-Year Medians	1991 Median
Brown Creeper	3/24	3/24	4/22	4/10
House Wren	4/20	4/14	—	—
Winter Wren	—	—	4/23	4/23
Marsh Wren	4/27	4/26	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3/24	3/24	4/13	4/20
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/10	4/6	5/9	5/9
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/10	4/4	—	—
Eastern Bluebird	2/22	2/26	—	—
Veery	4/30	5/1	5/22	5/22
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/13	5/11	5/25	5/24
Swainson's Thrush	5/2	5/1	5/27	5/31
Hermit Thrush	4/9	3/31	5/3	5/8
Wood Thrush	4/24	4/22	—	—
American Robin	2/20	2/22	—	—
Gray Catbird	4/24	4/26	—	—
Brown Thrasher	4/9	3/28	—	—
American Pipit	3/18	3/9	5/4	4/27
White-eyed Vireo	4/20	4/18	—	—
Solitary Vireo	4/20	4/17	5/7	5/7
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/28	4/25	—	—
Warbling Vireo	4/28	4/26	—	—
Red-eyed Vireo	4/25	4/24	—	—
Blue-winged Warbler	4/28	4/26	5/12	5/11
Golden-winged Warbler	4/29	4/28	5/12	—
Tennessee Warbler	5/4	5/6	5/21	5/19
Nashville Warbler	4/30	4/27	5/17	5/11
Northern Parula	4/19	4/13	—	—
Yellow Warbler	4/26	4/20	—	—
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/2	5/1	5/21	5/19
Magnolia Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/26	5/23
Cape May Warbler	5/3	5/4	5/20	5/19
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/1	4/28	5/20	5/15
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/9	—	5/15	5/16
Black-throated Green Warbler	4/29	4/27	5/21	5/17
Blackburnian Warbler	5/3	5/5	5/22	5/14
Yellow-throated Warbler	4/15	4/1	—	—
Pine Warbler	3/16	3/6	—	—
Prairie Warbler	4/24	4/18	—	—
Palm Warbler	4/7	4/6	5/3	5/4
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/4	5/4	5/23	5/18
Blackpoll Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/30	5/30
Cerulean Warbler	4/28	4/24	—	—
Black-and-white Warbler	4/17	4/17	—	—
American Redstart	4/26	4/28	5/30	5/28
Prothonotary Warbler	4/23	4/20	—	—
Worm-eating Warbler	4/27	4/27	—	—
Ovenbird	4/20	4/17	—	—
Northern Waterthrush	4/28	4/30	5/24	5/21
Louisiana Waterthrush	4/5	3/30	—	—
Kentucky Warbler	4/30	4/28	—	—

**Table 1 (cont.). Median Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1991**

Species	Arrivals		Departures	
	10-Year Medians	1991 Median	10-Year Medians	1991 Median
Common Yellowthroat	4/20	4/15	-	-
Hooded Warbler	4/27	4/27	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	5/6	5/8	5/21	5/11
Canada Warbler	5/5	5/5	5/27	5/22
Yellow-breasted Chat	4/30	5/1	-	-
Summer Tanager	5/1	4/28	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	4/28	4/27	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/1	4/29	5/22	5/19
Blue Grosbeak	5/1	4/30	-	-
Indigo Bunting	4/29	4/29	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	3/30	3/22	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	3/25	3/13
Chipping Sparrow	3/29	3/24	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	4/2	4/4	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	3/29	3/27	5/11	5/11
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/25	4/27	-	-
Seaside Sparrow	4/22	4/23	-	-
Fox Sparrow	2/23	2/23	3/27	3/29
Lincoln's Sparrow	5/4	5/4	5/23	5/15
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	5/11	5/10
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	5/16	5/16
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	5/10	5/11
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	5/2	4/25
Bobolink	5/2	5/1	5/23	5/25
Red-winged Blackbird	2/18	2/20	-	-
Eastern Meadowlark	3/16	3/15	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	3/13	3/9	5/2	4/25
Common Grackle	2/17	2/19	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	2/22	2/27	-	-
Orchard Oriole	4/27	4/20	-	-
Northern Oriole	4/27	4/27	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	5/6	5/3
Pine Siskin	-	-	5/11	5/14
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	5/5	5/3

Bellevue on March 31 (H. Armistead), and 3 at Cobb Island on March 31 (Blom). Farther north in the bay there was 1 off southern Anne Arundel County on March 31 (Davidson) and an adult on the Sassafras River at the mouth of Turner Creek on April 11 (Carol McCollough), the first for Kent County. The earliest **Brown Pelicans** reported were 8 at Assateague on April 6 and 65 there the next day (Barry).

*Cormorants.* The latest reports of **Great Cormorants** were 8, including 7 adults and 1 immature, at Point Lookout on March 16 (M. O'Brien), an adult at the US301 Bridge in Charles County on March 31 (Blom), and 2 flying north past Sandy Point on May 15 (Davidson). **Double-crested Cormorants** again were prominent in spring and not all reports will be mentioned. Peak flights were 2000 at North Beach on April 22 (Stasz) and 1200 at Ocean City on April 25 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). Inland on the Eastern Shore there were 7 at Choptank on March 3 (Ford) and 15 on the Nanticoke River, Wicomico County on March 11 (M. & J. O'Brien). At Chesapeake Bay areas there were 25 at Hart-Miller on March 10 (Barry, Dixon+), 48 at Sandy Point on March 27 (Grubers), 200 at Point Lookout on April 7 (Blom), and 82 at Masonville on May 9 (Barry). On the Potomac River and tributaries there were 200 at Rock Point on March 16 (Jett), 12 at the Mouth of the Monocacy on May 11 (Miller) and 1 there on May 28 (Czaplak), 30 at Seneca on April 17 (Czaplak), 140 in DC on April 20 (Czaplak), and 24 between Point of Rocks and Lander on May 4 (Smith). At other inland sites there was an adult at Little Seneca Lake on March 25 (M. & P. O'Brien) and 1 flying over Columbia on May 30 (Chestem).

*Hérons, Ibis.* The first sightings of **American Bitterns** this spring were single birds on March 31 at Pinto Marsh (Simons) and Spring Gap (Kiddy); the peak was 4 at Hughes Hollow on April 21 (Czaplak), and the last migrant was near Potomac on May 26 (Oberman). Reese estimated 200 **Great Blue Herons** at the Poplar Island colony on March 3. Migrant Great Blues were 65 at Assateague on April 1 and 56 there on April 7 (Hoffman), 10 at Hughes Hollow on April 2 (Czaplak), and 5 flying over River Ridge on April 4 (Paulus). Early **Great Egrets** were at Elliott on March 3 (H. Armistead, Bjerke, White), at Assateague on March 9 (Hoffman), 2 at Deal Island WMA and 1 in Wicomico County on March 11 (M. & J. O'Brien), and the first on the Western Shore at PRNAS on March 20 (Lister). The first inland Great Egret was 1 at Rockburn on April 5 (Ott), 1 was at Little Meadows Lake on April 8 (Skipper), and another at North Branch on April 9 (Twigg). The first reports of **Snowy Egrets** were 1 at Ape Hole Creek on March 21 (M. O'Brien), 1 on Assateague on March 24 (Hoffman), and 1 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom). The first **Little Blue Heron** of the season was most unusual, an adult at Lake Elkhorn on March 25-27 (Mariano) followed by 8 at West Ocean City on March 28 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga); the last migrant, another adult in Howard County was at Dorsey on May 7 (Ott). Hoffman noted that 1 **Tricolored Heron** remained through the winter on Assateague, and the first migrant there was seen on March 25; another 5 were at Deal Island WMA on March 30 (Barry) and 1 was at Cove Point on April 7 (Stasz). The earliest **Cattle Egrets** were 10 near Bishopville on March 27 and 1 almost entirely buffy-orange bird at Ocean City on March 28 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga); 2 were near Blackwater on March 30 (Barry), 4 at Powellville on March 30 (Pitney), and 5 at Centreville on April 1 (Effinger). On the Western Shore there was 1 at PRNAS on April 3, 5 there on April 24 (Lister), and 1 at Centennial on April 15 (Farrell). Early **Green-backed Herons** were singles at Assateague on March 24 (Hoffman), Lake Kittamaquidi on March 28 (Chestem), Piney Run on April 8 (Ringler), and Denton on April 8 (Hewitt). Inland **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were 1 at Lake Kittamaquidi

on March 28 (Chestem), 1 at Seneca on April 14 (Garland), an adult at Piney Run on May 4-5 (Ringler), and 1 at Wilde Lake on May 11 (Zechner). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Hughes Hollow on April 3 (Czaplak+). Interesting reports of **Glossy Ibis** were 1 near Berlin on March 10 (M. O'Brien+), 105 in the Ocean City area on March 28 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), 1 at Millington WMA on April 5 (Teddy Capel, Sonny Townsend), 4 at PRNAS on April 21 (Rambo), 10 at Back River on May 1 (Barry), and 1 at Lilypons on May 2 (Warfield).

*Swans, Geese.* Sightings of **Tundra Swans**, most of which were migrating, were 750 flying north at St. Michaels on March 2 and 1500 near Tilghman the next day (Reese), 150 flying over Germantown on March 13 (Warfield), 110 flying north at Myrtle Grove on March 17 (Jett), and 350 flying over Piney Run on March 17 (Hackman); 1 at Tanyard, April 30 through May 8 (Engle), was probably a non-breeder. **Mute Swans** at new locations were 3 at Georgetown Reservoir on March 7 (Janni), 1 on Dundee Creek, Baltimore County on March 20 (Hackman), 3 adults at Popes Creek on March 31 (Blom), 1 on South Assateague, April 7 through May 25 (Hoffman), 1 at Tanyard, April 20 through May 11 (Engle), and 2 at Hart-Miller on May 11 (Dixon, Kaestner). There were 1000 **Snow Geese** near Cecilton on March 12 (Reese), and 15,000 remained at Ruthsburg on March 16 (Grubers). The last reports of **Brant** were 400 at Assateague on April 7 (Hoffman) and 32 at Ocean City on April 28 (Reese). The Grubers estimated 3000 **Canada Geese** flying north over Chestertown on March 1, and 2500 were still at Piney Run on March 17 (Hackman). Evidence of early breeding by Canadas was an adult with 1 young at Rodo Beach, St. Mary's County on April 7 (Blom), 4 young at UMCf on April 20 (Ott), a brood of 7 downy young at North Branch on April 26 (Twigg), a pair of downy young at Piney Run on April 26 (Ringler), and an adult on a nest at Green Run on April 27 (Hoffman).

*Exotic Waterfowl.* A **Common Shelduck** was at Piney Run on April 26 (Ringler), and the drake **Falcated Teal** was at Laytonsville on March 2-17 (Janni, Hilton, Czaplak+).

*Puddle Ducks.* Paulus noted **Wood Ducks** with young at Oldtown on April 7. **Green-winged Teal** were widely reported in good numbers including these flocks: 19 at Lime Kiln Pond on March 2 (Magnusson), 160 at Hart-Miller on March 10 (Barry+), 400 at Assateague on March 11 (Hoffman), 13 at Lilypons on March 12 (M. & J. O'Brien), 20 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom), 400 at Jug Bay on April 6 (Blom), and 60 at Tanyard on April 10 (Engle). Late Green-wings were 1 on Assateague on May 21 (M. O'Brien) and 4 at Hart-Miller on May 27; 1 was still there on June 2 (Dixon, Webb). Highs for **American Black Ducks** were 140 at Blackwater on March 3 (H. Armistead) and 380 at Assateague on March 11 (Hoffman). Also at Blackwater on March 3 were 1375 **Mallards** and 275 **Northern Pintails** (H. Armistead). Other pintails of note were 35 on Assateague on March 11 (Hoffman) and 2 late birds at Elliott on May 4 (Wilson). A hybrid **Mallard X Northern Pintail** was at North Branch on April 26-29 (Paulus+). A female **Blue-winged Teal** at Centennial Park on March 3 (Farrell) had been seen there in February. Other early Blue-wings were 5 at Deal Island WMA on March 11 (M. & J. O'Brien); the high count for the season was 100 at Jug Bay on April 11 (Wilson), and a late bird was at Easton through May 28 (M. O'Brien). Another hybrid duck seen this spring was a **Green-winged Teal** or **Baikal Teal X Blue-winged Teal** that was seen at Deal Island WMA on May 18 (M. O'Brien, Davidson, Gough, Pisano). The best reports of **Northern Shovelers** were 123 at Hart-Miller on March 10 (Barry+), 50 at

Fairmount on March 21 (M. O'Brien), and 11 at Jug Bay on April 6 (Blom). High counts of **Gadwalls** were 145 on Assateague on March 9 (Hoffman) and 100 at Fairmount on March 21 (M. O'Brien); 9 late birds were at Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb). A drake **Eurasian Wigeon** was at Centennial on March 21 (Farrell+) and another was at the traditional location of Deal Island WMA on March 26 (Don Broderick). Highs for **American Wigeons** were 150 at Loch Raven on March 3 (Barry), 300 at Deal Island WMA on March 11 (M. & J. O'Brien), and 30 at Assateague on March 16 (Hoffman); a late bird was at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Ricciardi, Webb).

*Aythya Ducks.* High number of **Canvasbacks** staging for spring migration were 650 near Bellevue on March 9-10 (H. Armistead), 300 on the Nanticoke River in Wicomico County on March 11 (M. & J. O'Brien), 800 at North Beach on March 12 (Stasz), 400 at Rock Point on March 16 (Jett), 762 on the Wicomico River in St. Mary's County on March 17 (Boxwell), and 500 at Goose Creek, Dorchester County on March 20 (M. O'Brien). The best reports of **Redheads** were of 8 at Cambridge on March 3 (Czaplak) and 10 at Loch Raven on March 8 (Simon). Outstanding totals of **Ring-necked Ducks** were 300 at Loch Raven on March 8 (Simon), 316 on Deep Creek Lake on March 21 (Skipper), 40 at Wolfsville on March 24 (Miller), and 220 at Little Seneca Lake on March 31 (Czaplak); more than the usual number lingered, with 2 at Piney Run on May 12 (Ringer), 1 near LaPlata on May 18 (Jett), and 1 at Easton through May 28 (M. O'Brien). Interesting reports of **Greater Scaup** were 1000 off Hart-Miller on March 10 (Barry+), 15 at Ape Hole Creek on March 21 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Hains Point on March 23 (Czaplak), 14 at Little Seneca Lake on March 27 (P. O'Brien), and 2 at Popes Creek on March 31 (Blom). The flock of 32,000 scaup off Hart-Miller on March 10 was mostly **Lesser Scaup** (Barry+) as was the flock of 1000 on the Nanticoke River, Wicomico County on March 11 (M. & J. O'Brien). There were also 575 Lessers on the Wicomico River, St. Mary's County on March 17 (Boxwell) and a late drake at Violet's Lock through May 28 (M. & P. O'Brien).

*Other Diving Ducks.* Hoffman's minimum number of **King Eiders** at Assateague was 7 in three different locations with 5 through March 25. In addition, 2 immature males were at Ocean City from May 18 into June (M. O'Brien, Wierenga+). Highs for **Oldsquaws** were 90 at Hooper Island on March 3 (H. Armistead), 1080 near Bellevue on March 9 (H. Armistead), 50 at Fairmount on March 21 (M. O'Brien), 40 at Little Seneca Lake on March 27 (P. O'Brien), and 640 at PRNAS on April 3 (Rambo). Reports of **Black Scoters** included 10 at Ape Hole Creek on March 21 (M. O'Brien) and 15 at Assateague on May 22 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). Highs for **Surf Scoters** were 3100 near Bellevue on March 9 (H. Armistead), 360 at Assateague on March 17 (Hoffman), and 50 at Ape Hole Creek on March 21 (M. O'Brien); the latest were 4 at Ocean City and 25 at Assateague on May 22 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). Reports of **White-winged Scoters** included 1 at Ape Hole Creek on March 21 (M. O'Brien), 5 off Taylor's Island on March 30 (Barry), 6 at Rocky Gap on April 15 (Simons), and 2 at Assateague on May 22 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). High counts of **Common Goldeneyes** were 112 at Cambridge on March 3 (Czaplak), 95 at Hooper Island on March 3 (H. Armistead), and 247 at PRNAS on March 6 (Rambo). Concentrations of **Buffleheads** were 500 at Hooper Island on March 20 and 300 at Ape Hole Creek on March 21 (M. O'Brien), 510 at Assateague on April 1 (Hoffman), and 72 on Deep Creek Lake on April 6 (Skipper); late individuals were near LaPlata on May 12 (Jett), at Blockhouse Point on May 28 (Czaplak), and at West Ocean City on May 29 (Bonham). Lingered **Hooded Mergansers** were 1 at Irish Grove on April 27 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 at Loch Raven on May 7 (Joy Wheeler), 1 at Wilde Lake



on May 11 (Chestem, Zeichner), 2 at Hughes Hollow on May 11 (Hilton), and 1 at Lilypons on May 25 (Homan), all females, suggesting the possibility of local breeding. High counts of **Common Mergansers** in March were 33 at Triadelphia on the 2nd (Magnusson), 25 at Piney Run on the 3rd (Ringler, Hackman), and 40 at Loch Raven on the 24th (Barry). Tops for **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 30 near Tilghman on March 3 (Reese), 34 at Hains Point on March 23 (Czaplak), and 200 at Assateague on March 25 (Hoffman) and the latest was a male at Shady Grove on May 27 along with a female **Ruddy Duck** (Hilton). Other late Ruddy Ducks, probably summering locally, were 5 at Hurlock on May 13 (Ringler+) and 2 at Easton on May 28 (M. O'Brien).

**Table 2. Hawk Watch at Fort Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel County**

Species	First	Last	Total	Best Days
Black Vulture	3/25		8	8 on 3/25
Turkey Vulture	3/19	5/12	898	439 on 3/25, 71 on 3/28
Osprey	3/19	5/12	104	18 on 4/25, 13 on 4/16 & 4/17
Bald Eagle	3/27	4/27	5	3 on 4/27
Northern Harrier	3/24	5/12	52	23 on 3/24, 7 on 3/25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/19	5/12	1435	243 on 4/27, 215 on 4/25
Cooper's Hawk	3/19	5/7	216	101 on 3/25, 33 on 4/27
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/24	5/5	182	151 on 3/25
Broad-winged Hawk	4/7	5/8	305	152 on 4/17, 119 on 4/25
Red-tailed Hawk	3/19	5/7	96	52 on 3/25, 13 on 4/27
American Kestrel	3/19	5/13	254	150 on 3/24, 16 on 3/28
Merlin	4/16	5/18	12	6 on 4/27
Peregrine Falcon	3/25	5/2	2	
Unidentified			16	
TOTAL (22 days, 89.65 hrs.)	3/19	5/18	3585	817 on 3/25, 399 on 4/25

*Compiled by Paul Fritz*

*Diurnal Raptors.* An early migrant **Black Vulture** flew over Oldtown on March 2 (Paulus). Other interesting Black Vulture reports were 2 seen on March 11 and later at Green Run on Assateague where they were probably nesting (Hoffman), 7 migrants over River Ridge on April 4 (Paulus), 51 in the roost at Tanyard on May 11, and a nest with 1 young at Harmony the same day (Engle). On March 2 Paulus also noted 19 **Turkey Vultures** over Oldtown and the first of the season was seen in Garrett County that day (Skipper). A Turkey Vulture nest with 2 eggs was at Denton on April 29 (Reese), and Engle counted 115 birds in the Tanyard roost on May 11. Single **Ospreys** seen on March 3 were at Denton (Short), Chestertown (Grubers), and Ocean City (Southworths), and the first upland bird was at Lilypons on March 24 (Hilton); a late bird was at Piney Run on May 27 (Hackman). In Allegany County, Simons saw single immature **Bald Eagles** at locations with names usually associated with other parts of the state: Point Lookout on March 1 and Bel Air on May 24. Other sightings of immature Bald Eagles in Allegany County were 1 on the east side of Town Hill on March 15 (Paulus) and 1 at Cumberland on May 9 (Kiddy). It is possible that we may some day have nesting eagles in Western Maryland. Notable **Northern Harriers** were 9 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom), a late migrant there on May 12 (Jett), and 30 at Elliott on April 18 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). The only notable report of **Cooper's Hawk** away

from the hawk watch was 1 at Ridgely on May 18 (Effinger). There were an above average number of reports of **Northern Goshawks** with 1 at Damsite on March 9 (Grubers), an adult and an immature at Black Hill Park on March 31 (Czaplak), and single adults near Poolesville on March 31 and at Germantown on April 26 (P. O'Brien). April 17 seemed to be the peak day for Broad-winged Hawks, including 24 at Centennial (Solem, Nancy MacClintock) and 75 at Carderock (MacKiernan). Paulus saw 11 **Red-tailed Hawks** migrating over River Ridge on March 17 and a **Rough-legged Hawk** there on March 10. There were 8 Rough-legs remaining at Deal Island WMA on March 21 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at Irish Grove on March 31 (Effinger). Single immature **Golden Eagles** were at Blackwater on March 16 (Churchill) and River Ridge the same day (Paulus). **Merlins** were widely reported, beginning with 1 at Assateague on March 8 (Hoffman) and 1 at Hughes Hollow on March 17 (Jack Schultz) and ending with 1 at Assateague on the record date of May 22 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** remained in the area of North Assateague through April 13 (Hoffman); other sightings included 1 near Ellicott City on May 3 (Ott) and 2 in southwest DC on May 27 (Pat McGary).

*Pheasant, Turkey, Rallids, Crane.* Reese saw 1 **Ring-necked Pheasant** at Hollywood on March 4, and the following pheasants were reported on the Eastern Shore: on the Elliott Island Road 1 at Savannah Lake on March 3 (H. Armistead) and 3 at Weston Farms on March 15 (Churchill), 1 at Ruthsburg on April 24 (Grubers), 1 near Bellevue on May 3 (Armistead+), and along US50 in Talbot County on May 5 (Homan). Eastern Shore **Wild Turkeys** included 5 gobbling on Egypt Road near Blackwater on March 3 (H. Armistead), 1 heard at the Wicomico Development Forest on March 30 (Pitney), and 2 at Chesapeake City on May 11 (Fogleman). Other recently introduced turkeys in the Piedmont were 1 at Gamber on April 1 (Sandra Burrill), 1 at Liberty Dam, Baltimore County on April 11 (Woodrow Buchanan), and 2 west of Beckleysville Bridge in the Prettyboy Watershed on May 2 (Samuel Hughes). The first **Black Rails** of the year were heard on April 27 at Assateague (Hoffman) and in southern Prince George's County (Blom). Blom also found 2 **Clapper Rails** at Point Lookout on April 7, and Fogleman reported 1 at Chesapeake City on April 27, the northernmost this species has been found in the bay. Hoffman saw 1 **King Rail** on Assateague on March 24, Effinger found 1 at King's Creek on April 7, and another was heard flying over Meadow Mountain in Garrett County on May 18 (M. O'Brien+). Interesting reports of **Virginia Rails** were 4 at Hooper Island on March 3 (H. Armistead), 2 at Deal Island WMA on March 30 (Barry), 4 at Cove Point on April 7 (Stasz), 1 at Chesapeake City on April 27 (Fogleman), 1 seen and another heard at Pinto Marsh on May 4 (Kiddy), 1 banded at Damsite on May 9 (Grubers), and 1 heard near Urbana in May (Miller). The first migrant **Soras** were 5 at Cove Point on April 7 (Stasz), 1 on Assateague the same day (Hoffman), 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 9 (Gough), 1 heard at Sandy Point on April 10 (Davidson), 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 21 (Simons, Kiddy), 7 at Chesapeake City on April 27 (Fogleman), and 1 at Centennial on April 29 (Ott, Chestem). The first **Common Moorhens** were 1 at Cove Point on April 7 (Stasz), 1 at Tanyard on April 10 (Engle), 1 at Lilypons on April 23 (Warfield), 10 at Deal Island WMA on April 27 (Stasz, Iliff), and 1 at Hughes Hollow on April 28 (Czaplak). At Loch Raven 650 **American Coots** were present on March 1, and 525 remained on April 1 (Simon); 20 were at Little Seneca Lake on March 23 (Czaplak), and a late bird was at Lilypons on May 12 and 2 were at Deal Island WMA on May 26 (both Hilton). The Talbot County **Sandhill Crane** remained through March 20 (many observers).



*Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts.* On Assateague Hoffman counted 110 **Black-bellied Plovers** on April 13, but at the peak of migration he found 275 on May 15. Other Black-bellied Plovers of note were 7 at Blackwater on April 27 (Armisteads), 1 at Chesapeake City on May 11 (Fogleman), 2 at Laytonsville on May 12 and 1 through the 19th (Hilton+), 42 at Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb), and 5 at Easton on May 28 (M. O'Brien). The first **Semipalmated Plover** of the season was at Ocean City on April 25 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), but locally high counts were 410 in southern Dorchester County on May 4 (H. Armistead+), 3 at Laytonsville on May 14 (P. O'Brien), 218 on Assateague on May 14 (Hoffman), 17 at Lilypons on May 22 (P. O'Brien), 165 at Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb), and 30 at Easton on May 28 (M. O'Brien). Hoffman saw 1 **Piping Plover** on Assateague on March 10 and 13 there on April 13 after migration had begun. Highs for **Killdeer** were 41 near Tilghman on March 3 (Reese) and 105 at UMCf on March 31 (Atkinson). The Armisteads found a Killdeer nest with 3 eggs at Blackwater on April 27. March sightings of **American Oystercatchers** were 2 at Hooper Island on the 3rd (H. Armistead), 8 on Assateague on the 10th (Hoffman), 2 at Fairmount on the 21st (M. O'Brien), 75 at Ocean City on the 27th (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), and 1 flying past Taylor's Island on the 30th (Barry). There were 4 **Black-necked Stilts** at Deal Island WMA on April 27 (Iliff, Stasz) and 6 there on May 9 (Lawler). Elsewhere there were 2 stilts at Easton on April 30 and 1 on May 15 (Effinger, M. O'Brien), 2 at West Ocean City on May 3 (M. O'Brien+), and 1 at Blackwater on May 11 (H. Armistead, Sharp).

*Sandpipers.* Early **Greater Yellowlegs** were 3 at Blackwater on March 2 (Czaplak), 3 at Assateague on March 11 (Hoffman), and 1 at Laytonsville on March 16 (Hilton); locally high counts included 20 at Deal Island WMA on March 30 (Barry), 22 at Lilypons on March 31 (Czaplak), 15 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom), 45 at Jug Bay on April 6 (Blom), 60 at Assateague on April 27 (Hoffman), and 60 at Easton on May 3 (Effinger, Olsen); the latest were 6 at Assateague on May 25 (Hoffman), 7 at Blackwater on May 26 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Easton on May 28 (M. O'Brien). **Lesser Yellowlegs** were also early with 1 at Blackwater on March 3 (H. Armistead), 10 at Assateague on March 11 (Hoffman), and 1 at North Branch on March 23 (Kiddy). Locally there were highs of 25 Lessers at Irish Grove on March 31 (Effinger), 30 at Elliott on April 18 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), 26 at North Branch on April 24 (Paulus), 20 at Remington Farms on April 24 (Grubers), 110 at Easton on May 3 (Effinger, Olsen), 150 at Assateague on May 5 (Hoffman), and 200 at Hart-Miller on May 11 (Dixon, Kaestner). The first **Solitary Sandpiper** of the season was at Lilypons on April 12 (Warfield), and there were 15 at Annapolis on April 30 (Iliff) and 17 at Dorsey's Search, Columbia on May 4 (Ott). Dick and Jeanne Woods counted 16 **Willetts** at Ocean City on the early date of April 2, but 350 were estimated on the south part of Assateague on May 6 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). Willet sightings on Chesapeake Bay included single birds at Sandy Point on April 26 (Davidson), Damsite on May 4 (Grubers), Knapps Narrows on May 10 (Ringler), and Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb), the latter being noted as an eastern Willet. Allegany County saw the earliest **Spotted Sandpiper** at Rocky Gap on March 23 (Simons) and the highest concentration of 43 at North Branch on May 3 (Paulus). Migrant **Upland Sandpipers** were 2 at Massey on April 16 (Parks, Paul Tolson) and 1 heard flying over Easton on April 30 (M. O'Brien). An early **Whimbrel** was at Assateague on April 15 (Warfield) where Hoffman counted 43 on April 27, 155 on May 15, and a late bird on May 25. Extraordinary inland were 6 Whimbrels resting along the Potomac at Violet's Lock on May 28 (M. & P. O'Brien, Bonham). The only **Marbled Godwit** of the season was the first for Allegany County at North Branch on April 29

(Paulus+). Notable reports of Ruddy Turnstones were 1 at Sandy Point on April 26 (Davidson), 353 at Assateague on May 14 (Hoffman), 1 at Rocky Gap on May 18 (M. O'Brien+), and 61 at Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb).

Sightings of **Red Knots** included 1 at Assateague on May 5 (Czaplak) and 122 there on May 14 (Hoffman), and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Ricciardi, Webb). In the southern part of Chesapeake Bay there were 4 **Sanderlings** at Hooper Island on March 3 (H. Armistead) and 4 at PRNAS on March 11 (Lister), and 9 again at Hooper Island on May 11 (H. Armistead, Sharp). On Assateague there were 3300 Sanderlings on April 7 and 1050 on the late date of May 25 (Hoffman). The Grubers found an incredible 150 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Remington Farms, quite early on April 24, while other April sightings were 1 at North Branch on the 26th (Twigg) and 2 at Irish Grove on the 27th (Iliff, Stasz). Other locally high counts of Semis were 30 at Sandy Point on May 15 (Davidson), 6000 at Assateague on May 22 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), 220 at Blackwater on May 26 (H. Armistead), 580 at Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb), and 150 at Easton on May 28 and 200 at Cambridge on May 29 (both M. O'Brien). Spring reports of **Western Sandpipers** this year were 1 at Elliott on May 4 (H. Armistead+) and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Ricciardi, Webb). On Assateague Hoffman saw the first 2 **Least Sandpipers** on March 25, the peak migration of 520 on May 15, and 40 remaining on May 25. Other Least Sandpipers of interest were 100 at Remington Farms on April 24 (Grubers), 75 at Irish Grove on April 27 (Iliff, Stasz), 450 in southern Dorchester County on May 4 (H. Armistead+), 20 at Port Tobacco on May 5 (Blom), 73 at North Branch on May 9 (Paulus), 320 at Hart-Miller on May 11 (Dixon, Kaestner), and 30 at Easton on May 28 (M. O'Brien). The Armistead party also found 15 **White-rumped Sandpipers** in southern Dorchester County on May 4 and other reports were of 2 at Easton on May 13 (M. O'Brien, Blom+), 25 there on May 28 (M. O'Brien), 1 at North Branch on May 13-16 (Paulus), 1 at West Ocean City on May 21 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), 7 at Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb), and 4 at Cambridge on May 29 (M. O'Brien).

There were some very early **Pectoral Sandpipers** with 8 at Blackwater on March 3 (H. Armistead) and 1 at UMCf the same day (Ott), 3 at Assateague on March 11 (Hoffman), 1 at Hughes Hollow on March 17 (M. O'Brien), and 2 at North Branch on March 17 (Kiddy). Locally high counts of Pectorals were 11 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom), 19 at North Branch on April 1-2 (Simons), 50 at Remington Farms on April 24 (Grubers), and 18 at Easton on May 3 (Effinger); the latest were single birds at Lilypons on May 21 (Warfield) and Easton on May 24 (Effinger, Olsen). The last report of **Purple Sandpipers** at Ocean City was 29 on May 21 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). The wintering **Dunlins** in Dorchester County numbered 300 at Hooper Island on March 3 and 610 at Blackwater on March 10 (H. Armistead). Migrating Dunlins at other locations were 3 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 and 5 at Cornfield Harbor on April 7 (Blom), 3 at North Branch and 3 at Rocky Gap on April 14 (Simons+), 5 at Hains Point on April 20 (Czaplak), 430 at Hart-Miller on May 12 (Ricciardi, Webb), 2100 at Assateague on May 15 (Hoffman), 1 at Westminster on May 19 (Ringler), and 2 at Lilypons on May 22 (P. O'Brien). Hoffman found a record early **Stilt Sandpiper** on Assateague on April 6, 4 there on May 5, and 3 on May 15; 2 were at Blackwater on May 4 (H. Armistead+), 1 at Easton on May 15 and 5 there on May 21 (Effinger). A **Ruff** was seen at Jug Bay on April 9 (Dotty Mumford+) and a male was at Easton on May 21 (Effinger). Hoffman found 10 early **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Assateague on April 6 and a peak of 635 there on May 15. Other reports of Short-bills were 4 at Knapps Narrows on May 10 (Ringler), 240 at Hart-Miller on May 11 (Dixon, Kaestner) and 13

at Easton on May 24 (Effinger, Olsen). Hoffman found the only **Long-billed Dowitchers** of the season with 3 wintering birds remaining on Assateague through March 30 followed by migrants of 11 on April 6-7 and 2 remaining on April 26. High counts of **Common Snipe** for the spring were 30 at Lilypons on March 12 (M. & J. O'Brien), 28 at UMCF on March 31 (Atkinson), and 35 at Tanyard on April 10 (Engle). The best numbers of **American Woodcock** were 7 at North Branch on March 3 (Simons), 6 at Rockburn on March 3 (Ott), 5 at Fair Hill on March 12 (Reese), and 6 at Loch Raven on March 16 (Barry); but most surprising was the remarkably early sighting of an adult with 4 young at Denton on *March 11* by Joe Shortall. Hoffman saw single **Wilson's Phalaropes** at Assateague on April 6-7 and May 5, and there were 9 at Hart-Miller on May 27 (Dixon, Webb). Pelagic sightings of **Red-necked Phalaropes** off Ocean City were 18 on May 4 (Scarpulla+) and 20 (including birds in Virginia waters) on May 17 (MacKiernan). Single Red-necks were at Elliott on May 23 (Wierenga) and North Branch on May 27 (Twigg). The only **Red Phalaropes** of the season were 10 on the May 4 boat trip (Scarpulla+).

*Jaegers, Gulls.* The May 4 pelagic trip off Ocean City produced 3 **Pomarine Jaegers**, at least 1 of which was a light phase adult, and 3 **Parasitic Jaegers**, all light phase adults (Scarpulla+). An unidentified dark jaeger was seen at Assateague on May 13 (Blom+). The first **Laughing Gulls** of the season were seen on March 10 with 2 at Ocean City (M. O'Brien+) at 23 at Smithville (Scudder). Concentrations of Laughers were 250 at Hope on April 12 (Grubers), 1375 on Egypt Road near Blackwater on April 13 (Armisteads+), and 700 near Tanyard on April 16 and 8000 at Easton on April 30 (both M. O'Brien). Sightings of **Little Gulls** were of single adults at North Beach on April 5 and April 22 (Stasz) and at Back River on April 21 (Scarpulla) plus an immature at North Assateague on May 5 (Czaplak). The **Common Black-headed Gull** reported at Sparrows Point during February was seen through March 2 (Scarpulla), and an immature was at North Assateague on May 5 (Czaplak). High counts of **Bonaparte's Gulls** away from the coast were 164 at Rocky Gap on April 3 (Simons), 28 at Seneca on April 4 (P. O'Brien), 50 at PRNAS on April 5 (Rambo, Lister), 170 at Piney Run on April 12 (Ringler), 48 at Fulton on April 13 (Magnusson), 160 at Carderock on April 18 (Homan), and 176 at Hains Point on April 20 (Czaplak); a late bird was at Assateague on May 22 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). High local counts of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 10,000 at Damsite on March 10 (Grubers), 700 at Hains Point on March 23 (Czaplak), 700 near Tanyard on April 16 (M. O'Brien), and 115 at Cumberland on May 4 (Twigg); a late migrant was at Lake Kittamaquidi on May 31 (Chestem). The presumed hybrid **Laughing Gull X Ring-billed Gull** was seen in the Ocean City area, May 18-23 (M. O'Brien+). Hoffman estimated 1430 **Herring Gulls** at Assateague on March 10, and a late migrant was at Seneca on May 27 (Czaplak). The **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen at Laytonsville through March 16 (Hilton) and at Georgetown Reservoir through March 21 (Janni). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was at Salisbury on April 3 (Scarpulla), and a second-winter bird was at Easton on April 19 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga) and April 30 (Effinger). Laytonsville continued to host the most **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** with 5 through March 7 (many observers) while other Lessers of note were 1 at Pisgah on March 9 (Jett), 2 at Georgetown Reservoir through April 4 (Janni), 1 at Triadelphia on April 15 (Magnusson, Solem), a second-winter bird at Easton on April 19 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga) and 1 at Sandy Point on May 15 (Davidson). The only **Glaucous Gull** of the season was a first-winter bird that remained at Laytonsville through March 7 (Czaplak). The last **Black-legged Kittiwakes** from the winter were 2 seen about 7-8 miles off Ocean City on March 10 (M. O'Brien+).

*Terns, Skimmers, Alcids.* The first **Caspian Terns** of the season, all seen on April 6, were 1 at Cobb Island (Jett), 1 at Fort Smallwood (Mozurkewich), and 2 at Assateague (Barry). Inland sightings of Caspians included 12 at Brighton Dam on April 13 (Solem), 2 at Rocky Gap on April 14-15 (Twigg, Simons) and 12 at Centennial on April 22 (Farrell); highs were 180 at Sandy Point on April 20 (Davidson, Wierenga) and 300 at Hart-Miller on May 11 (Dixon, Kaestner); 138 were there on May 27 (Dixon, Webb). The first **Royal Terns** of the season were 2 at Assateague on March 25 (Hoffman), 7 at Point Lookout on April 7 (Blom), and 1 at Cove Point the same day (Stasz). The high for Royals was 150 at Ocean City on April 28 (Stasz, Iliff); and a pair was seen copulating on Hooper Island on May 11 (H. Armistead, Sharp), signs that there may be an increase of breeding by Royal Terns in Maryland soon. The first **Common Terns** of the season were seen on April 10 with 1 at Ocean City (M. O'Brien) and 2 at PRNAS (Lister), followed by other interesting reports of 1 at Benedict on April 16 (Jett) and 1 at Seneca on April 25 (Warfield). The first **Forster's Tern** of the season appeared far inland at Rocky Gap on March 21, and there were 2 there on April 18 and 2 at Pinto on April 14 (both Simons), and 3 at North Branch on April 20 (Simons, Kiddy) and April 29 (Paulus) to round out the Allegany County sightings. Other reports of Forster's Terns away from the coast were 2 off Taylor's Island on March 30 (Barry), 5 at Annapolis on April 5 (Iliff), and 2 at Violet's Lock on April 22 (M. O'Brien). The first **Least Terns** of the season were 3 at Assateague on April 27 (Hoffman). The only reports of **Black Terns** were 27 off Ocean City on the May 4 pelagic trip (Scarpulla+) and 2 at Mouth of Monocacy on May 27 (Czaplak, P. O'Brien). **Black Skimmers** began the season with 15 at Ocean City on April 9 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga); 65 were at Hooper Island on May 4 and 11 (H. Armistead+), and an adult was as far north as Knapps Narrows on May 10 (Ringler). A **Razorbill** was seen 3 miles off Ocean City on March 3 (MacKiernan), and 2 were about a half mile off Ocean City on March 10 (M. O'Brien+).

*Doves, Cuckoos, Owls.* A **Ringed Turtle-Dove** was at Long Point on the Magothy from May 19 for a few days (Fay Lutz). Early **Black-billed Cuckoos** were 1 at Gaithersburg on April 27 (Hilton), 1 at Denton on May 1 (Nuttle), and 1 at Centennial on May 1 (Ott); Michael O'Brien and party heard 10 flying at night over Negro Mountain in Garrett County on May 18 as well as 17 **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**. Early Yellow-billed Cuckoos were 1 at Federalsburg on April 25 (Glime), 1 at Centerville on April 26 (Effinger) and 1 at Blackwater on April 27 (Armisteads). A **Barn Owl** found stuck in a farmhouse chimney near Fairlee on March 1 was rescued and banded before being released (Grubers). Barn Owls hatched 5 young in a chimney in Lewistown in the week of April 13 (Miller). Hoffman found 2 fledgling **Great Horned Owls** on Assateague on May 15. Czaplak noted a **Long-eared Owl** in western Montgomery County through March 30. Among the numerous reports of **Short-eared Owls** were 1 at Cecilton on March 19 (Reese), 1 at Hains Point on March 23 (Czaplak), 3 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom), 1 at Cove Point on April 7 (Stasz) and 1 at Easton on April 18 (Effinger, Olsen, Scarpulla). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** remained at the Monocacy Wildlife Area, Frederick County from March 2 to the middle of the month (Miller), another at Laurel to March 11 (Churchill), 1 at Hughes Hollow through March 30 (Homan), and 1 on Assateague through April (Hoffman).

*Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.* Early **Common Nighthawks** were 1 in Montgomery County on May 2 (Bonham) and 2 at Cambridge on May 4 (H. Armistead+). The first **Chuck-wills's-widows** were 1 on Assateague on April 10 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at Denton April 22 (Nuttle); high counts were 14 at Ocean



Pines on April 23 (Woodses) and 30 on Assateague on May 7 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). Simple upland Chucks were heard again at Soldiers' Delight on May 5 (Walbeck, Webb) and at Hammond Village on May 11 (George Chase). The first **Whip-poor-wills** reported were 1 at tum Suden Sanctuary on April 16 (Blom) and 5 at Hog Island the same day (M. O'Brien). Extraordinarily early **Chimney Swifts** were single birds at Annapolis on March 22 (Iliff), Fort Smallwood on March 25 (Davidson, Ricciardi, Wierenga), and Ocean City on April 9 (M. O'Brien). Also very early were single **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at Spring Gap on April 7 (Twigg) and Dunkirk on April 15 (Arlene Ripley). William Hill saw 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in Glover-Archbold Park, DC on May 16 and 22. Reese saw large young **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** in a nest near Brandywine on May 13-17. During the peak of migration the Grubers estimated 40 **Northern Flickers** at Damsite on April 7 and 14.

*Flycatchers, Larks.* The only **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reported was near Ellicott City on May 24 (Ott). Early **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were single birds at Pennyfield on April 24 (P. O'Brien), Greensboro on April 26 (Scudder), and Damsite on the latter date (Grubers). The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** reported were 1 in DC on May 22 (Czaplak), 2 at Golts on May 22 (Parks), 1 banded at Adventure on May 25 (Donnald+), and 1 banded at Damsite on June 1 (Grubers). An early **Acadian Flycatcher** was at Hollywood on April 27 (Rambo). Michael O'Brien and party estimated 10 **Alder Flycatchers** on Meadow Mountain on May 18; the only migrant reported was at Cheverly on May 23 (Reese). Very early **Willow Flycatchers** found on May 8 were 1 at Sycamore Landing (P. O'Brien) and 1 at Centennial (Ott). The earliest migrant **Least Flycatcher** was 1 at Battery Kemble Park on April 28 (Janni), and the latest was 1 at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Calvert County on May 25 (Barry). Among the many early **Eastern Phoebes** were 1 on Green Ridge on March 1 (Simons) and 1 at Sandy Point on March 2 (Davidson, Wierenga). Single early **Great Crested Flycatchers** seen on April 24 were at Rockville (P. O'Brien) and Annapolis (Iliff). The earliest **Eastern Kingbirds** were 1 on Assateague on April 6 (Hoffman) and 1 at Queen Anne on April 18 (Grubers); Mozurkewich counted 59 migrants at Fort Smallwood on May 13. Davidson saw a wayward **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Broadwater on April 17. Czaplak estimated the **Horned Lark** flock near Lilypons down to about 100 birds on March 10.

*Swallows.* The earliest **Purple Martin** was at PWRC on March 10 (Tony Futcher). **Tree Swallows** stormed into the state exceptionally early in all sections with 1 at Blackwater on March 2 (Czaplak), 5 at Elliott on March 3 (Bjerke, White), 7 at Hughes Hollow on March 3 (Chuck Parker), 45 at Assateague on March 9 (Hoffman), and 2 at Kinnard's Point, Kent County on March 17 (Hitchner). High counts of Tree Swallows were 200 at Damsite on March 24, 500 there on April 20 (Grubers), 1200 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom), 250 at Blackwater on April 13 (Armisteads+), 110 at Mouth of Monocacy on April 13 (Czaplak), 248 at North Branch on April 15 (Simons), and 200 at Seneca on April 20 (Czaplak). Early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were 1 at Point of Rocks on March 21 (Warfield) and 1 at Town Creek Aqueduct on March 23 (Twigg). Very early **Bank Swallows** were 1 at Seneca on April 10, 1 at Mouth of Monocacy on April 13 (both Czaplak), and 15 at Hope on April 15 (Grubers); the high count was 150 at Piney Run on May 19 (Ringler). The first **Cliff Swallows** reported were 1 at Blackwater on April 13 (Armisteads+) and 4 at Piney Run on April 14 (Hackman). The earliest **Barn Swallows** were 1 at North Branch on March 23 (Kiddy, Simons), 1 at Lilypons on March 23 (Hilton), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on March 24 (Mariano),

25 at Seneca on March 25 (M. & P. O'Brien), and 10 at Popes Creek and 50 at Allen's Fresh on March 31 (Blom).

*Corvids, Parids, Nuthatches.* A **Blue Jay** flying north over Ocean City on April 25 (M. O'Brien) was noted as a migrant; Mozurkewich counted the big flights of jays with 3520 at Fort Smallwood on May 12 and 3110 there the next day. Out-of-range **Common Ravens** were 1 at Piney Run on March 17 (Hackman), the first for Carroll County, and 1 in Montgomery County near Sugarloaf on March 24 (Czaplak). Smith found 2 adult and 4 fledgling ravens in the Point of Rocks/Lander area on May 4. After last fall's minor influx of **Black-capped Chickadees** Barabara Ross banded 1 at Irvine on May 3. Hoffman considered the 2 **Tufted Titmice** he saw on Assateague on March 11 and 3 there on March 16 to be migrants. The high for **Red-breasted Nuthatches** was a mere 5 at Sugarloaf on March 16 (Czaplak). Notes of **Brown-headed Nuthatches** were 7 at Green Run on March 31 (Hoffman) and 9 at Point Lookout on April 7 (Blom).

*Wrens.* A nest with 3 young of the **Carolina Wren** was near Bellevue on April 27 (H. Armistead+). Early **House Wrens** were 1 at Denton on March 28 (Nuttie) and 1 on Assateague on March 31 (Hoffman); another at West Ocean City was observed doing a near perfect Carolina Wren song on May 21 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). A late **Winter Wren** was at Wilde Lake on May 6 (Chestem). **Sedge Wren** reports were 2 on Assateague on April 6 (Hoffman), 1 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on April 9 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), 2 at Shorter's Wharf on April 17 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Finzel on May 11 (Walbeck+), and 1 at Ocean City on May 18 (Southworths). **Marsh Wrens** that probably wintered were 1 at Hart-Miller on March 10 (Barry), 1 singing at Allen's Fresh on March 16 (Jett), and 3 singing at Deal Island WMA on March 21 (M. O'Brien); others that may have been early migrants were 1 at Cove Point on April 7 (Stasz), 2 near Tanyard on April 16 (M. O'Brien), and 30 at Elliott on April 18 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga). Inland Marsh Wrens were 1 on the C & O Canal near Milepost 177 in Allegany County on April 30 (Twigg), 1 at Pinto Marsh on May 4 (Kiddy), and 1 at Lilypons on May 15 (Miller).

*Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.* Notable high counts of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were 120 at Damsite on March 24 (Grubers), 87 at Assateague on March 30 (Hoffman), and 46 at Soldiers' Delight on March 30 (Walbeck+); exceptionally late birds were seen on May 5 at Middle Patuxent River in Howard County (Chestem) and 2 at Trappe (Reese). A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Gwynn Acres Trail on May 14 (Solem, Mariano). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** that had been at North Beach in February was seen again on March 12 (Stasz); other March reports, of newly arrived birds, were 2 on Assateague on the 30th (Hoffman), 2 at Black Hill Park on the 31st (Czaplak), 1 at Violet's Lock on the 31st (Mieke Mehlman), and 1 at Hains Point on the 31st (M. & P. O'Brien; the high for the season was 22 at MPEA on April 27 (Atkinson).

*Thrushes.* Davidson estimated 100 **Eastern Bluebirds** near Blackwater on March 16. The first **Veery** of the season was at Gwynn Acres Trail on April 25 (Solem, Bockstie), followed by 2 found at Rockville on April 27 by Michael O'Brien, who heard about 120 flying over Ocean City before dawn on May 10 as well as 12 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**. An exceptionally early Gray-cheek was in Montgomery County on April 30 (Bonham), and a probable sighting of a Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush was made at Rockville on May 13-24 (P. & M. O'Brien). The first **Swainson's Thrush** of the season

was at Rockville on April 29 (M. O'Brien), and the last was banded at Irvine on June 5 (Ross+). There were 5 **Hermit Thrushes** at Clarksville on April 7 (Atkinson) for the season's high count. Early **Wood Thrushes** were 1 at Federalsburg on April 18 (Glime), 1 at Parsonsburg on April 19 (Pitney), and 2 at King's Creek the same day (Effinger). High counts of **American Robins** were 60 at Piney Run on March 3 (Ringler, Hackman) and 300 at Damsite on March 17 (Grubers).

*Mimids, Pipits, Shrikes.* **Gray Catbirds** that survived the winter were 5 on Assateague on March 16 (Hoffman), 1 at Annapolis on March 17 (Iliff), 1 at Denton on April 1 (Nuttie), and 2 at Oxford on April 7 (Reese). Walbeck and party found 2 **Northern Mockingbirds** on May 11 at Bloomington, the location in Garrett County where the species is resident. The following **Brown Thrashers** seen in March may have wintered locally: 1 on Assateague on the 9th (Hoffman), 1 banded at Damsite on the 15th (Grubers), 2 at Annapolis on the 15th (Iliff), 1 at Greensboro on the 17th (A. Bilbrough), and 1 on Wye Island on the 18th (Walbeck). There were 100 **American Pipits** at North Branch on March 14 (Paulus) and another 100 at UMCf on March 30-31 (Atkinson). Sightings of **Loggerhead Shrikes** were 1 at River Ridge on March 10 (Paulus), 1 at Annapolis on March 27-31 (Iliff+), 1 south of Frederick on May 11 (Smith), and 2 in Washington County on May 12 and 18 (M. O'Brien+).

*Vireos.* **White-eyed Vireos** were notably early this spring with birds at Shad Landing and Nassawango on April 6 (Garland), 1 at Seneca on April 7 (Ed Bruce), 3 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on April 9 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), and 1 at Annapolis on April 11 (Iliff). Early **Solitary Vireos** were 1 at Rockville on April 5 (M. & P. O'Brien), 2 on Green Ridge on April 5 and 9 there on the 17th (Simons), and 1 at UMCf on April 7 (Atkinson); a late bird was near Ellicott City on May 16 (Ott). Early **Yellow-throated Vireos** were 1 on Green Ridge on April 5 and 2 at Spring Gap on April 6 (Simons), 1 at Pleasant Hill on April 17 (Reese), and 1 at Waldorf on April 20 (Jett). Kiddy found an active Yellow-throated Vireo nest on Green Ridge on May 5 and a **Warbling Vireo** on a nest at Spring Gap on May 11. Early Warbling Vireos were 1 at Downsville on April 17 (Mallonee), 1 at Violet's Lock on April 24 (P. O'Brien), and 1 at UMCf on April 25 (Atkinson); migrants on the Coastal Plain were 1 at Annapolis on April 29 (Iliff) and 1 at Ocean City on May 7 (M. O'Brien). Early **Red-eyed Vireos** were single birds at Downsville on April 15 (Mallonee), in Howard County on April 17 (Solem, MacClintock), and at Parsonsburg on April 17 (Pitney).

*Vermivora Warblers, Parula.* **Blue-winged Warblers** of note were a record-early bird at Damsite on April 13 (Grubers), 1 at Laytonsville on April 20 (Hilton), 7 at Damsite on May 3 and 5 (Grubers), and 1 at Pleasant Valley in Garrett County on May 11 (Skipper). Early **Golden-winged Warblers** included 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 21 (Simons) and 1 near Ellicott City on April 28 (Ott). Single hybrid "**Brewster's**" **Warblers** on May 4 were banded at Adventure (Donnald+) and seen singing both Blue-wing and Golden-wing songs at Damsite (Grubers). Single hybrid "**Lawrence's**" **Warblers** found on May 13 were 1 at Rockburn (Ott, Bockstie) and singing a Blue-wing song in Caroline County (Nuttie). An early **Tennessee Warbler** was at Centennial on April 23 (Bockstie, Probst). The only **Orange-crowned Warbler** of the season was near Bellevue on April 13-14 (Armisteads+). Early **Northern Parulas** were 1 at Pennyfield on April 7 (Garland), 1 at Ocean City on April 9 (M. O'Brien), and 3 at Wilde Lake on April 10 (Zeichner).

*Dendroica* Warblers. Exceptionally early **Yellow Warblers** were 1 at Mexico Farms on April 4 (Twigg) and 2 in Cumberland on April 8 (Simons). The first and last migrant **Chestnut-sided Warblers** of the spring were 1 on Green Ridge on April 17 (Simons) and a singing male at Piney Run on May 22 (Ringler). An early **Magnolia Warbler** was seen on April 26 at Damsite, where 21 were counted on May 9 (Grubers). An early **Cape May Warbler** was in Montgomery County on April 28 (M. O'Brien). A record-early male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was described at C & O Canal milepost 162, Allegany County on March 29 (Twigg). High counts of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 680 at Assateague on March 11 (Hoffman) and 500 at Damsite on May 3 (Grubers); the latest was 1 at Denton on May 20 (Nuttle). The first **Black-throated Green Warblers** of the season were 2 heard on Bray Hill on April 25 (Skipper), the same day an early **Blackburnian Warbler** was in DC (Czaplak). Early **Yellow-throated Warblers** were 1 near Ellicott City on March 28 (Ott), 2 at Carderock on March 28 (Klockner), and 1 in Allegany County at C & O Canal milepost 162 on March 29 (Twigg). Slightly out of its usual range was a Yellow-throated Warbler singing at Hashawha, Carroll County on May 12 (Ringler). A **Pine Warbler** was singing near Bellevue on March 2 (H. Armistead) and 1 was near Cumberland the next day (Twigg). At Blockhouse Point, Czaplak found a pair of Pine Warblers feeding young in the nest on May 18, and on May 28 there were 2 young out of the nest (M. O'Brien). Early **Prairie Warblers** were single birds at Brandywine on April 12 (Smith), Parsonsburg on April 16 (Pitney), and Annapolis the same day (Iliff). The single western **Palm Warblers** that Michael O'Brien saw near Marion on March 21 and at Ocean City on March 27 had probably wintered locally. The first migrant Palm Warblers were 1 at Black Hill Park on March 30 (Hilton) and 1 at Centreville on April 1 (Effinger); the first report of a migrant western Palm was at Black Hill Park on April 25 (Czaplak). Latest Palms were a western at Piney Run on May 5 (Ringler), 1 at Wilde Lake on May 6 (Chestem) and a western at Dundalk on May 7 (Wilkinson). Western Palm Warblers typically migrate later, and in much smaller numbers in the spring than yellow Palm Warblers. An early **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Annapolis on April 29 (Iliff), and Czaplak counted 33 at Sugarloaf on May 12. Very early **Cerulean Warblers** were 1 on Green Ridge on April 17 (Simons) and a male at Port Tobacco on April 19 (Blom), followed by 1 at Gwynn Acres Trail on April 24 (Solem, Ott) and a male at McKeldin on April 25 (Ringler). Other Coastal Plain reports of Ceruleans were of 1 near Nanjemoy on April 27 (Jett), 3 at Damsite on May 4 (Grubers), 1 at Centreville on May 7 (Effinger), and 1 at Ocean City on May 10 (M. O'Brien). A late migrant Cerulean was in DC on May 15 (Czaplak).

*Other Warblers.* The first **Black-and-white Warbler** of the season was seen at Lake Elkhorn on April 1 (Mariano) and the first **American Redstart** at Sycamore Landing on April 22 (M. O'Brien). The first **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Whiton Crossing on April 6 (Pitney+) and the first in Allegany County on April 17 (Simons). Nesting activities of Prothonotary Warblers included a pair nest-building at Great Falls on April 27 (Walbeck, Kate Meade) and a nest with young at Seneca on May 25 (Marie Plante). An early **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Blockhouse Point on April 14 (Czaplak). A **Swainson's Warbler** that was first heard singing at Green Ridge on April 18 was later recorded and seen through June 6 (Simons+). Another Swainson's was heard in Pocomoke State Forest on Pusey Branch on May 26 (Effinger, Olsen). Early **Ovenbirds** were 1 at Whiton Crossing on April 6 (Pitney+), 1 at Irish Grove on April 7 (Ricciardi, Webb), and 3 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on April 9 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga); Reese found an Ovenbird nest with 5 eggs at Cheltenham on the early date of May 8. An Early **Northern Waterthrush** was banded at Adventure on April 17 (Donnald+),



3 were at Massey Crossing on May 7 (M. O'Brien), and Czaplak found 3 at Blockhouse Point on May 29. Single **Louisiana Waterthrushes** found on March 28 were at Green Ridge (Simons), in Calvert County (Hamilton), and at Carderock (Klockner). Early **Kentucky Warblers** included 1 near Ellicott City on April 24 (Ott) and 4 at Sugarloaf on April 27 (Czaplak). Sightings of **Mourning Warblers** were few this spring with a male at Talbot's Landing, Howard County on May 13 (Jane & Ralph Geuder), 1 at Pennyfield on May 16 (P. O'Brien), 1 singing at Green Run on May 25 (Hoffman), and a male at Hughes Hollow on May 27 (Czaplak). Single **Common Yellowthroats** that may have been early migrants were on Assateague on March 25 (Hoffman), at Deal Island WMA on March 30 (Barry), at King's Creek on April 2 (M. O'Brien), at Hughes Hollow on April 3 (Czaplak), and at Millington WMA on April 6 (Lorenz). The earliest **Hooded Warbler** was at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 21 (Jett), and unusual at Centreville was 1 on May 7 (Effinger). Rare on the Eastern Shore in spring was a female **Wilson's Warbler** at Salisbury on May 10 (Simone Jenion). The Grubers banded 2 late **Canada Warblers** at Damsite on June 1. The earliest **Yellow-breasted Chat** was at Rockburn on April 27 (Solem+).

*Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches.* Piedmont reports of **Summer Tanagers** included a male near Ellicott City on April 28 (Ott+), 1 at Black Hill Park on May 9 (Czaplak), and 1 at Phoenix on May 12 and 17 (Simon). Early **Scarlet Tanagers** were 1 at Pennyfield on April 19 (P. O'Brien) and 1 at Hollywood on April 21 (Rambo). Czaplak found a fledgling **Northern Cardinal** at Black Hill Park on May 13. Among the **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** seen on April 28 were 1 at Centreville (Effinger) and 1 at Nassawango (Stasz, Iliff). The first **Blue Grosbeaks** of the season were 3 at Blackwater on April 27 (Armisteads). On April 24 Rambo found 1 **Indigo Bunting** at PRNAS and Bonham found 1 in Montgomery County. Mozurkewich noted 38 Indigo Buntings as migrants at Fort Smallwood on May 12. The only migrant **Dickcissel** was near Sandy Point on May 11 (Wierenga), while at least 4 breeding birds were on territory near Lilypons from May 19 into June (Hilton, Miller+).

*Sparrows, Longspur, Snow Bunting.* Barry and party counted 12 **American Tree Sparrows** at Hart-Miller on March 10 for the last flock of the season. **Chipping Sparrows** that probably qualify as early migrants were single birds at Lake Elkhorn on March 8 (Mariano), Damsite on March 15 (Grubers), and Owings on March 18 (Reese). Czaplak found a singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Battery Kemble Park on April 26. Migrant **Field Sparrows** included 15 at Point Lookout on March 16 (M. O'Brien) and 1 in DC on May 10 (Czaplak). A migrant **Vesper Sparrow** was on Assateague on April 3 (M. O'Brien). Flocks of **Savannah Sparrows** numbered 15 on Assateague on March 25 (Hoffman), 100 at Easton on April 11 (M. O'Brien) and 20 at PRNAS on April 6 (Rambo); a late migrant was in West Columbia on May 17 (Chestem). An early **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Massey on April 16 (Parks, Paul Tolson), and Michael O'Brien found 20 near Lilypons on April 27. Hoffman found 4 **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** on Assateague on April 7 and 8 there on May 5, and 15 were at Farm Creek Marsh, Dorchester County on May 30 (M. O'Brien). Early **Seaside Sparrows** were 5 at Shorter's Wharf on April 17 and 10 at Elliott on April 18 (M. O'Brien, Wierenga), 3 at St. George Island on April 21 (Blom), 9 on Assateague on April 26 (Hoffman), and 6 at Deal Island WMA on April 28 (Lawler). High counts of migrant **Song Sparrows** on March 24 were 79 at Assateague (Hoffman) and 250 at Annapolis (Iliff). A very early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in DC on April 25 (Czaplak); the peak migration also came early with 2 at Rockburn on May 4 (Ott, Chestem) and 2 banded at Adventure on May

5 (Donnald+). Late **Swamp Sparrows** on May 17 were 1 at Lake Kittamaquundi (Chestem) and 1 banded at Damsite (Grubers). The latest **White-throated Sparrow** was at Centreville on May 31 (Effinger), the last **White-crowned Sparrow** was an adult on Assateague on May 15 (Hoffman), and a very late **Dark-eyed Junco** was at Pennyfield on May 8 (P. O'Brien). The last 3 **Lapland Longspurs** were near Lilypons on March 10 (Czaplak) and 11 **Snow Buntings** remained at Hart-Miller the same day (Barry).

*Icterines, Frigillids.* Early **Bobolinks** were 1 near Lilypons on April 27 (M. O'Brien), 2 at Keysville on April 27 (Ringler), and 1 at Schooley Mill Park on April 28 (Atkinson); there were high counts of 200 at Denton on May 3 (Scudder), 35 at Massey Crossing on May 7 (M. O'Brien), 1306 at Fort Smallwood on May 12 and 1398 there the next day (Mozurkewich); late birds were 60 near Ellicott City on May 30 (Ott) and 2 at Wingate on June 1 (H. Armistead). The high count of migrating **Red-winged Blackbirds** was 1500 at Cecilton on March 19 (Reese). Iliff noted his first migrant **Eastern Meadowlark** at Annapolis on March 28 and his last on April 25. The high for **Rusty Blackbirds** was 110 at Lilypons on March 24 (Czaplak); 17 were at West Columbia on April 22 (Chestem), and late birds were 2 at Gwynn Acres Trail on May 8 (Ott) and 1 at Annapolis on May 12 (Iliff). **Brewer's Blackbirds** provided some unexpected excitement early in the season beginning with 16 (8 males and 8 females) at Shorter's Wharf from Feb. 28 through March 20 (M. O'Brien+). This was followed by the discovery of a male at Lilypons on March 10 (Czaplak), up to 3 birds (2 males and 1 female) there from March 17 through April 3 (MacKiernan, Miller+), and 2 males at Hog Island Marsh, Caroline County on April 2 (M. O'Brien). Evidence of the increase of **Boat-tailed Grackles** came with a count of 280 on Assateague on April 12 (Hoffman) and others extending the breeding range in Maryland: 3 at St. George Island on April 21 (Blom) and 5 birds, including a female carrying nesting material, at Knapps Narrows on May 10 (Ringler). Paulus noticed the largest flock of **Common Grackles** with 1000 at Oldtown on March 2. A host of early **Orchard Orioles** included single birds at Chestertown on April 12 (Grubers), Fort Smallwood on April 17 (George and Helene Mozurkewich), Denton on April 18 (Nuttie), Lanham on April 20 (David Mozurkewich), Centennial on April 20 (Chestem), and Parsonsburg on April 21 (Pitney). Early **Northern Orioles** were 1 at Denton on April 18 (Nuttie) and 1 at Blockhouse Point on April 23 (Czaplak); 10 on Assateague on May 13 and 1 there on May 24 (Hoffman) were also of interest. The high for **Purple Finches** this spring was 30 in Montgomery County on April 22 (M. O'Brien); the latest migrant was at Annapolis on May 12 (Iliff+). **Red Crossbills** were extraordinary finds with 15 at Anderby Hall Road in Talbot County on March 31 (H. Armistead), 12 near Bellevue on April 14 (G. Armistead, Chris Witt) and 2 at Blackwater on April 27 (H. and G. Armistead). High counts of **American Goldfinches** were 750 at Pennyfield on May 2 (Homan) and 469 at Fort Smallwood on May 13 (Mozurkewich). The only **Evening Grosbeaks** of note were 30 near Pinto Marsh on April 21 (Simons, Kiddy) and 4 near Bellevue on the very late date of May 25 (H. Armistead).

## WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS OFF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

KYLE E. RAMBO

On June 29, 1986, while fishing from a private boat in Chesapeake Bay off of St. Mary's County, I observed four Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*). There had been a severe storm the day before, and the birds may have been driven into the Bay by bad weather.

At the time of the sighting we were chum fishing for bluefish about midway across the Bay from southern St. Mary's County on the Western Shore and southern Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore. The birds fed on our chum slick for almost two hours and followed the boat to within two miles of the St. Mary's shoreline near St. Jerome's Creek.

I was able to observe the birds at close range during the time they were behind the boat. I have seen Wilson's Storm-Petrels on numerous occasions off the Atlantic Coast between Maine and North Carolina. This is my first record of Wilson's Storm-Petrels off St. Mary's County, and may be the first county record, although local charter boat captains have reported seeing the species on occasion.

Environment Protection Office  
Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland 20670

## UNUSUAL FEEDING BEHAVIOR BY A RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

MEL BENNETT

On Wednesday, February 15, 1989, Mel and Marion Bennett heard crows (*Corvus* sp.) making a lot of noise in the small tongue of woods behind their house in Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland. The next day Marion found a dead Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) at the end of the woods, which are about 75 feet from the house. The breast feathers of the dead bird were very disheveled. On Friday, February 17, Mel Bennett inspected the dead hawk and found that the back was torn open, down to the flesh.

On Saturday, February 18, while doing the Frederick County Feeder Count, we saw a live Red-shouldered Hawk carry the dead hawk about 100 feet into the woods, flying close to the ground. At that point it stopped and began feeding on the carcass. The feeding continued for about five minutes. During that time two crows sat within 5 feet of the live bird. A second Red-shouldered Hawk was perched on a limb about 40 feet away.

After five minutes the feeding bird picked up the carcass and flew another 50 feet into the woods. We would no longer clearly see what was happening, but the crows, which had been vocal, soon quieted, and we assumed the hawks had left. We investigated the area later but only found two large clusters of down and small feathers. No primary feathers or bones were present.

All of this took place within 100 feet of a tree where a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks raised two young in 1986.

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